

Prank rock
Would you go to a gig dressed like this?

Section Two, Pop



Faulty vision
Why this architect despairs of modern Britain

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THE INDEPENDENT

3,054

FRIDAY 2 AUGUST 1996

WEATHER Dry, bright and warm

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Rail sell-off brings fateful platform of joy and despair

MICHAEL HARRISON

It could have been him... fate hovered briefly over Brian Clementson and then, cruelly, moved on. Mr Clementson is the man who missed out on millions - £10.7m to be precise - by quitting his job as engineering director of Porterbrook Leasing just before it was bought out from British Rail by the management.

Yesterday, as his former colleagues counted their good

fortune, Mr Clementson was counting what might have been his if he had stayed for a few months longer at the train-leasing company.

All 50 staff, from the board members to the humblest office clerk, are sharing in a £90m lottery-style windfall, following the takeover of the company by the bus and rail group Stagecoach.

Considering that he has missed out on a fortune, Mr Clementson, who went off to run BR's rail test division in

Derby, was in phlegmatic mood. "I couldn't possibly comment, but how would you feel?" he said. Close colleagues were more forthcoming: "It's a sad, bad, feature of railway privatisation that people can make that sort of money," one said.

"Brian was never against privatisation, but he thought the business was too big to be sold that quickly."

Sandy Anderson, who joined Porterbrook as managing director just before the buy-out,

didn't think so, and he was right. Yesterday his shareholding was worth £36.25m while Ray Cork, the finance director, was a more modest £16.74m better off.

Tim Gilbert, who got Mr Clementson's job and his share of the spoils, was looking at a profit of £10,699,971.12p on his 62,000 shares.

Fate also had a hand in that, as Mr Gilbert was third choice for the post. Mr Clementson was to have been replaced by Andrew Highton, an executive

from the engineering group Babcock. But he died in a light-plane crash the day before he was due to start.

As details emerged of the gigantic share bonanza, Labour branded it "the biggest privatisation scandal of them all" and renewed the onslaught against "fat cats".

But, for once, the slimmer felines are sharing the cream as well. The pay-out for the 44 staff who were not on the board works out at £390,000 a head.

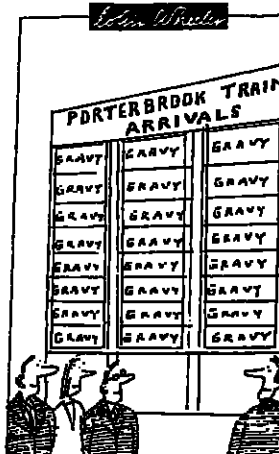
Yesterday as they slipped out of Porterbrook's offices in Derby for lunchtime sandwiches, the reluctant millionaires proved a shy lot. Not one would talk about their fabulous new wealth, as they had been told not to speak to the press.

The rub is that they have the taxpayer to thank for their unexpected riches. The Government sold Porterbrook for £577m, but Stagecoach has paid £825m. It thinks Porterbrook is worth it because its £1.6bn of

revenues are guaranteed for the next 10 years by the government subsidies that the private train operators get to pay Porterbrook's leasing charges.

All is not total desolation for Mr Clementson. He is moving on again to become fleet director of InterCity West Coast, one of the final passenger franchises slated for sale. Stagecoach is bidding for that as well. Who knows, next time it could be him.

Business comment, page 17



End to BSE ban hit by link to calves

Study proves that disease is passed on by cows

CHARLES ARTHUR and KATHERINE BUTLER, BRUSSELS

Cows can pass on BSE to their calves, the Government admitted yesterday, after yielding to requests from scientific advisers to reveal preliminary results from a seven-year study.

The announcement was a "disappointing setback" to hopes of an early end to the European ban on British beef, said the Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler in a letter to Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister. He said that the UK's plans to eradicate BSE may have to be re-examined, which could substantially delay the resumption of beef exports from the UK.

Scientists said, however, that they did not know how the disease is transmitted from the mother to the calf - raising the possibility that there may be an additional risk to humans from tissues currently considered harmless. "It's a problem to explain it," said one member of SEAC, the independent advisory committee on BSE and its human equivalent, CJD.

SEAC suggested that the news that cows can pass on the disease, transmission has occurred could mean that the culling strategy can be more carefully targeted. "Rather than saying that this is 'shock-horror' news, I think that there's something good to it," said Professor John Pattison, head of SEAC. "It means that the feed ban [to prevent BSE-infected material reaching humans or farm animals] has been more effective than we thought, as some of the current BSE cases

must have come from their mothers." The results came from preliminary examination of a seven-year study of two groups of cattle each containing more than 300 animals. The study was carried out at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, and had not been due to finish until autumn. But SEAC pushed for an interim examination of the animals which had died so far.

This showed that there was up to a 10 per cent chance that a cow with BSE could pass the disease on to her calf. However, the chance of passing it on was much lower for cows which were infected with BSE but were in an earlier stage of the disease. The research an average risk of 1 per cent.

The results have thrown up the question of how the disease is passed on in the womb, since there is no contact with the most infective tissues, such as the central nervous system. Milk has been ruled out as a medium, as dairy calves develop the disease without ever suckling their mothers' milk.

Kevin Taylor, the Ministry of Agriculture's assistant chief veterinary officer, said there were 28,402 known cases of BSE in animals born after the feed ban. Of these, 1,203 were the offspring of diseased animals. He said "That rate is 4.2%, but that's misleading because many of them will also have been exposed to the risk of [infected] feed."

Mr Hogg said: "We shall need to take stock of the practical implications, in particular for the proposed selective cull of cattle, and what basis of selection stands to produce the



most effective acceleration in the decline of BSE." However, Professor Pattison said that the figures suggest that BSE will die out in the cattle population. "If the infection rate drops below 1, then the epidemic dies out," he said.

Britain's chief veterinary officer Keith Meldrum said after talks with counterparts from other EU states that the government would be "re-evaluating" the BSE eradication plan but declined to speculate how. He dismissed suggestions that

the plan was "off the rails" and said there was no new risk.

Mr Meldrum underwent intense questioning from the EU standing committee on the basis for the claim that the risk of infection in herds via maternal transmission is only about 1 per

cent - an interpretation that one SEAC member described as a "MAFF gloss" on the wide variation in transmission rates between cows of different ages. European vets agreed to refer the findings to a panel of independent scientific advisers.

Fact or fiction?

"Fact": BSE poses no risk to human health - something repeatedly said by the Government. But our real knowledge is hazier. Members of SEAC, the independent committee of scientists advising the government on BSE and CJD, think it is possible that 12 cases of "new variant" CJD among Britons in the past two years were caused by exposure to BSE.

"Fact": BSE in cows came from scrapie in sheep, after the process of making cattle feed out of ground-up animals changed in the late 1970s. That's what the ministry says. But some SEAC members think that BSE didn't "come" from anywhere. It may simply be an endemic disease in cattle - like CJD in humans.

"Fact": BSE is very rarely passed from cow to calf - if at all. Another ministry favourite. But results issued yesterday suggest that cows in the last six months of the five-year incubation period of BSE have a 10 per cent chance of passing it on to their calf.

"Fact": BSE-induced CJD will reach epidemic proportions, killing thousands of people every year, sometime in the next decade. Thus numerous doom-sayers, triumphalist vegetarians and over-excited journalists. But no link between eating BSE-infected food and "new variant" CJD has been established, and experimental results that might prove a link will not be ready before next year. The removal of beef offal from human food in November 1989 has significantly reduced the risk of passing on the disease, if there is a link. The dozen cases recorded by the CJD Unit in Edinburgh do not show the rapid rise that might be expected.

British riot controls used in Indonesia

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY and DIANE COYLE
RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Jakarta

Indonesian security forces are using British riot control vehicles and water cannon to suppress riots in the capital, Jakarta, and are equipped with electric "cattle-prod" shock batons supplied by a South African company associated with a British firm, the Independent has learned.

The equipment is part of a range of British products for police and internal security, in-

cluding a powerful police computer system called Generics, supplied by Plessey. Indonesia was the first customer - before British police forces.

The riot control vehicles are tactical armoured personnel carriers built by Glover Webb of Hamble, part of the GKN Defence network.

The Foreign Office last night had no evidence the vehicles and water cannon had been used against "peaceful" demonstrations, but were continuing to monitor the situation closely.

So far no trace has emerged

of an export licence for the water cannon suggesting they may have slipped through in another category.

It has emerged that the Indonesian police are also equipped with electric shock batons manufactured by a South African associate of SDMS Security Products of London. A letter obtained by the Independent dated 8 February 1996 says the batons had been ordered by police and army units in 30 countries, including Indonesia. In some of those cases SDMS, rather than the South African manufacturers, had

supplied the equipment.

Many British businessmen remain bullish about investing in Indonesia. A spokesman for ICI said: "This happens every time there is unrest anywhere. You get a lot of questions at first, but people stop asking when it dies down. That's life for a multinational company."

The British public may think differently. Four women were acquitted by a Liverpool jury this week after causing £1.5m of damage to a Hawk jet fighter destined for Indonesia.

Jakarta was mostly quiet yesterday, after the government or-

dered protesters to be shot on sight. A legal challenge by the opposition leader, Megawati Sukarnoputri, was cancelled because a judge had an alleged toothache. There were international protests against the arrest of Muchtar Pakpahan, a trade union leader.

Reports of British-built Scorpion 90 tanks on the streets have not been confirmed. The Foreign Office said it had received assurances from the Indonesians - understood to be at ministerial level - that the Scorpion tanks would not be used for internal repression.

Foreign Office sources said Britain would take a "very dim view" of the Indonesians renegeing on the understanding.

Paul Leavis, director of Saferworld, an arms control think-tank, said last night: "This shows how ridiculous the UK policy is that we will export security equipment as long as we have assurances that it will not be used for repression. Indonesia shows how impossible that line is to draw. If a country is committing human rights abuses the only answer is a complete arms embargo."

Further reports, page 9

'Day of national shame' as embryos are destroyed

GLENDIA COOPER

A last-minute attempt to save thousands of frozen embryos failed yesterday as clinics finally began to destroy them.

The pressure group Life, which carried out a candlelit vigil for the 3,000 "orphan" embryos on Wednesday night, called on the Official Solicitor, Peter Harris to intervene and stop them being destroyed.

They are being allowed to perish because the couples who created them have not been able to be traced, and under current law, frozen embryos can only be stored for longer than five years if the couple give their consent.

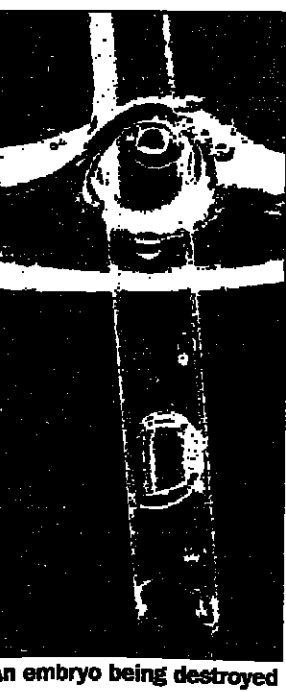
The destruction has outraged "pro-life" groups who called yesterday "a day of national shame". The Vatican termed it a "pre-natal massacre" and called for couples to be allowed to adopt the embryos. Around 130 couples have offered to do so, it is claimed.

Life faxed the Official Solicitor asking him to halt the destruction. "The Official Solicitor acts on behalf of children and those unable to defend themselves, and these embryos need protection," said Life's chairman, Professor Jack Scarbrick.

But Mr Harris said he had no power to intervene in this case as he could only act when ap-

pointed by a court. "Furthermore, I can only act on the representative on behalf of a natural person - a life in being. Until a child is delivered it does not have an independent legal persona."

At Bourn Hall, where the world's first test-tube baby was created, staff checked yesterday morning's post and faxes for last-minute requests before starting to thaw out 800 embryos at 8am. At the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre, around 200 embryos were removed from glass straws at around 8.30am. "It has been very distressing and frustrating for everyone," said the centre's director, Professor Ian Craft.



An embryo being destroyed

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news

Labour may delay single currency

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

Tony Blair is discussing with his senior colleagues the option of a Labour Government postponing entry into the single European currency. If announced publicly, the move could catch the Conservatives off balance in the run-up to the election.

Treaty. Any retreat from that would dismay Labour's strongly pro-European wing, but would avoid trouble from the large minority of Eurosceptic Labour MPs in the early years of a Labour Government.

The Labour leader is sensitive to the difficulty of selling the single currency to voters becoming increasingly doubtful about Europe - and of winning a "Yes" vote in a referendum. He is also said to be tempted by the prospect of increasing Tory divisions by adding to pressure on John Major to declare against joining.

Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, surprised some members of the party's National Executive on Wednesday by saying that the presentation of policy on the single currency would be "revisited" before the general election, expected in May next year.

Sources close to Mr Cook said he is aware of the difficulties of getting through an election campaign with "the formula we have got now". One said Mr Cook recognised that the single currency decision might seem harder to "fudge" when the Treasury predicts in No-

vember's Budget whether Britain would be eligible to join.

Civil servants calculate that the British Government could effectively have to make the decision in the autumn of next year, just months after a general election, in order to get the necessary laws through parliament.

Mr Cook's supporters point to Labour's pre-manifesto, *New Life for Britain*, launched last month, as evidence of Mr Blair's growing scepticism. In a section written by the Labour leader himself, it says the issue "must be determined by a hard-

headed look at its economic practicalities". It describes monetary union as "a major step of integration which in principle could bring benefits in terms of stability and lower interest rates".

It goes on: "For Britain, we would need to be convinced that economic conditions would allow it to succeed."

Mr Cook set out the disadvantages of joining the single currency at some length in an unreported Westminster book launch last week. Pointing out that Britain had failed to match German productivity growth

over the past 30 years, he said: "Before we give up our currency, we have to be confident that we will never again need to devalue. In other words, we will never again over a long period of time fall behind the performance of Continental industries."

For many in the party, casting doubt on Britain joining the "first wave" is recognising a hard fact, but others, including shadow chancellor Gordon Brown, are worried about sending a Euro-sceptical signal to the markets, businesses and European governments.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Research into how juries reach their verdicts was last night demanded by Lord Donaldson, the former Master of the Rolls, following the failure of Ian Botham and Allan Lamb's libel action against Imran Khan and the acquittal at a trial in Liverpool of four women accused of criminal damage after an attack on a British Aerospace Hawk jet.

He told BBC1's *Nine O'Clock News*: "If judges knew what trouble juries had ... in coming to a verdict they could perhaps alter the form of their summing up to make it easier for juries to understand the issues but as long as we have no idea on what basis juries reach their conclusions it's difficult to answer any of those questions." *Patricia Wynn Davies*

Britain's new Joint Rapid Deployment Force, comprising elite Commandos and paratroops and other quick-reaction forces from the Navy, Marines, Army and Air Force, became operational yesterday under the direction of the new Permanent Joint Headquarters at Northwood Middlesex, which was opened on 3 April.

Defence sources said the "Joint" force would enable Britain to respond more quickly to crises, either as part of a multinational operation or a purely British operation and was a reflection of the move from "continental" to an "expeditionary" strategy. Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, said: "From today we will be able to respond to crises worldwide more quickly. We shall be able to put together and deploy a joint force ... specially tailored to meet the demands of each crisis." The first Chief of JRDF Operations is Brigadier Jonathan Thomson. *Christopher Bellamy*

Three men convicted of an armed robbery on a Securicor guard were each jailed for 14 years at Preston Crown Court yesterday. Peter Roddy, 41, Dion Gray, 21, and Malcolm Bird, 29, all from Blackpool, denied the robbery at the W.D. Smith wholesale depot in the resort last October. Almost £10,000 was stolen and nothing was recovered.

The jury was told that police officers discovered that one of the men, Roddy, had scribbled a poem about the robbery on a table top when they went to arrest him. It read: "I would never rob a pauper of that I am sure. The best buzz I have ever had is robbing Securicor." He claimed that the poem was written while he was smoking cannabis and had nothing to do with the robbery.

In defiance of a Treasury ban, the Isle of Wight Council has decided to resume the sale of Ecu-style tokens. The council hopes it can persuade the Treasury to drop its legal objections to the tokens, which have been said to contravene currency legislation. The council says it will resume sales from Saturday, but each token will now carry a sticker stressing they are not coinage and cannot be exchanged for goods.

The council had sold around 4,000 of the crown-sized tokens at its various outlets and allowed them to be exchanged for goods. Despite a Treasury ban from mid-July, the council said it decided on the new move following legal advice. Managing director of business services, Mike Fisher, said that they hoped to convince the Treasury that the sales were a harmless initiative aimed at promoting island tourism and raising money for charity.

An angry driver of a black cab made history yesterday after being convicted in the first "vengeance" trial to come before an English court.

Peter Gay, 38, of Whitechapel, east London, who faces up to five years in jail, last November deliberately ran over a journalist who had given evidence against him in another court hearing. Southwark Crown Court was told. The victim, John Coughlan, targeted just six days after his attacker had failed to overturn a conviction for threatening him, said that the force of the impact caused him to stagger into the kerb and wrench his leg. The charge of "taking revenge", brought under Section 51 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, has never been tried in England before. Gay was remanded in custody until today, when he will be sentenced.

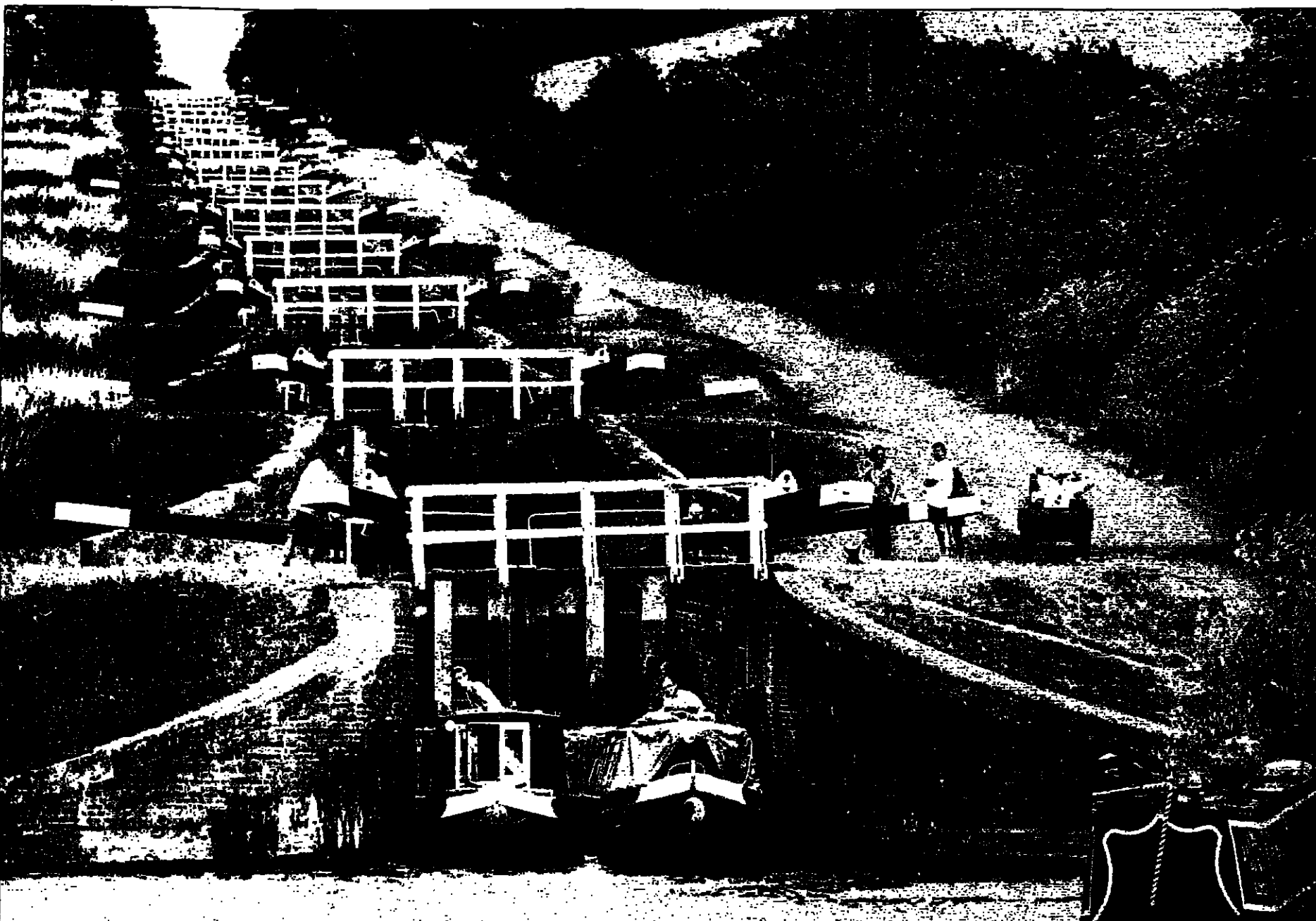
Company chiefs who fail to pay national insurance contributions for their employees could have their personal assets frozen under new powers announced yesterday by the Secretary of State for Social Security, Peter Lilley.

The measures are aimed at helping to recover money which would otherwise be lost to the Government when businesses go under. Mr Lilley said he wanted particularly to target the "unscrupulous activities of a few individuals who deliberately run a business into insolvency leaving large debts behind". The changes aim to provide a quick and effective method of preventing assets from being removed from the jurisdiction of the court and then satisfying the civil debt in the criminal proceedings.

Motorists rushed to collect P-registration cars yesterday as August sales seemed set to soar towards the half-million mark. Registrations indicating the year of purchase first came in on 1 January 1993, when A plates were introduced, and the start of the new car year was moved to August in 1997. Manufacturers expect this year's total to be the second-highest ever for the month - the record was in 1989 when 500,112 cars were sold. Last year the figure reached nearly 469,000.

Holidaymakers could be in for a shock if they try to cash eurocheques in France, where they are being phased. In a report published by Europay International, only four banks still cash eurocheques in most of their branches - Banque Nationale de Paris, Banque Regionale d'Escompte et de Depots, Credit Du Nord and Societe Generale, which means some tourists could be stranded penniless in remote areas. The banks say that they have moved with the times by expanding their cash machine network, but not all British eurocheque holders have cards to use them. They also say that they have suffered from fraud through eurocheque cash services. *Charlie Bain*

An English author who was arrested after claiming he was a member of an Special Air Service death squad in Ulster was released without charge yesterday. The Royal Ulster Constabulary described his book, *The Nemesis File*, as "a work of fiction".



Watery rave: Britain's longest flight of broad canal locks, on the Kennet and Avon canal at Devizes, Wiltshire, back in action on a full-time basis for the first time in 45 years yesterday following a £1m restoration scheme to recycle the 330,000 gallons an hour the 29 gate complex uses

Photograph: David Rose

Redwood joy at US welfare cuts

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

John Redwood yesterday welcomed controversial American welfare reforms as a model for cutting back long-term social security costs in Britain.

In Washington on an American tour as part of his long-running campaign for the leadership of the Conservative Party, Mr Redwood was in "rejoice, rejoice" mood.

He was fulsome in his praise of the US government for having agreed on Wednesday to pass a Bill that reduces access to welfare benefits for close to 40 million people. Three times at a news conference yesterday morning, he congratulated President Clinton on his decision to sign the Republican Bill.

Mr Redwood approved of the emphasis on "self-help" in legislation which "offers people the chance of a job rather than a welfare chit". He said: "Your welfare Bill has broken new ground here in the US."

"In Britain we are also making important changes. Jefferson warned us all that the coat which fits the boy needs replacing in manhood. So it is with the welfare coat, as we grow to

greater prosperity."

Mr Redwood's metaphor was perhaps ill-judged since the Bill's American opponents - among them senior members of Mr Clinton's Democratic Party - estimate that one million children will be thrown into even-less poverty.

What the Bill does, among other things, is reduce families' eligibility for cash welfare payments to a maximum of five years in total and reduce help with food. Nearly 13 million Americans are on welfare and 25.6 million receive food stamps.

Mr Redwood backpedalled somewhat when asked whether he believed Britain might adopt some of its provisions, notably the one imposing five-year limits on access to welfare. "No," he said, "I'm not recommending that in the British situation."

Mr Redwood admitted he occupied positions some way to the left of his Republican friends. "On very many issues," he said, "Tony Blair is well to the right of me." As examples he gave Mr Blair's proposals to introduce child curfews and take grants away from students, proposals which the Republican Party would consider blasphemous to oppose.

Speak to voters in English, Blair told

Tony Blair comes under fire today for confusing the voters by using ever more "elaborate and obscure" language.

New Labour should start speaking the language of the people, says Jay Johnson, Labour's former campaigns and media chief, writes John Rentoul.

She was backed by the Plain English Campaign, which has written to all party leaders asking them to "ensure that election material is in plain, understandable English".

Her criticism was also backed by Kim Howells, Labour's trade spokesman, who said: "I sometimes listen to some of my colleagues and they're moulding one cliché into another and you don't know where the policy is."

Ms Johnson attacks Mr Blair's "Young Country" and "British Dream" slogans, describing them as meaningless attempts to echo foreign political rhetoric, in an article in today's *New Statesman*. She says Labour is not going to abolish the monarchy, which would indeed make Britain a "young country", a phrase with "a distinctly Australian flavour".

She ridicules Mr Blair's fondness for the idea of "renewal", saying that for most people the word applies to insurance and television licences.

Ms Johnson also rakes up the row over Mr Blair's decision to demote Clare Short from transport to overseas aid spokeswoman: "It's ironic that one frontbencher who does speak in plain words - Clare Short - has been demoted for thinking the unthinkable without a licence."

She says New Labour should drop the "New" because everyone knows the party has changed, and adds: "In an age of mass media, New Labour's language should pass the Des Lynam television sports presentation test: can it generate excitement, unity and ambition and yet be capable of reacting to disappointment without despair?"

Paedophile on the run given job with children

A paedophile with convictions stretching back 41 years attacked two schoolboys after being employed by a local authority at an Astro turf football pitch, the Old Bailey heard yesterday.

John Roberts, 63, who was on the run from prison when he was taken on by a London council, was told by Judge Alan Hitching that he was facing a life term.

An Old Bailey jury convicted him of sexually abusing two boys aged seven and 13. Both have been left traumatised by their ordeal, it was revealed.

Roberts went on the run from jail while on home leave from an eight-year sentence and took an assumed name of William Lane.

He went to an employment agency and applied for the job of groundsman for Kennington Astro turf football pitch in south London. Lambeth council gave him the job at the pitch, which is used by hundreds of youngsters in the borough.

The court was not told whether the council had made any police checks.

Police revealed afterwards

that he was in the process of starting up several boys' football teams when he was arrested.

Roberts, of Peckham, south London, was found guilty of bugging and indecent assault on the seven-year-old and indecency with the 13-year-old. He was cleared of one charge of indecency with the younger boy. The offences occurred in October last year.

Roberts cursed the jury and continually interrupted the proceedings after the guilty verdicts. He was ordered to sit down and keep quiet or face being taken to the cells.

The judge told him: "This is the ninth offence of this nature and his passion in this direction is showing no signs of abating. I have to consider a very long jail term or a life sentence for the protection of the public and young children."

He adjourned the case for pre-sentence and probation reports to be prepared. The judge also extended legal aid to Roberts' defence team so a top QC could be employed to argue his case as he is facing such a long penalty.

Roberts worked for Lambeth for four months using his position of trust as a means of getting close to children, the court heard.

Edmond Brown, prosecuting, said: "He used his influence and his age to take advantage of two boys and invite them into his house."

The court heard that he enticed the boys with money and by taking them to hamburger restaurants. The boys, who were not allowed to have any counselling until after the trial, gave their evidence via a video link.

A father of one of the boys saw Roberts follow his son into bushes at the ground and later warned him off.

But Roberts continued his activities. He gave the 13-year-old boy £15 and showed him and his seven-year-old friend pornographic pictures of children.

He carried out the attacks at his flat and when police raided it they found a Polaroid camera, gay magazines and condoms. He was caught after one of the boys told his father.

Holiday sunscreen 'costs £313'

A family of four could spend £313.74 on sunscreen protection during a two-week holiday, Labour claimed yesterday.

And the party's spokesman on consumer affairs, Nigel Griffiths, protested that because of the "high price" of these products and "confusing information" on labels, many Britons were being put at risk of potentially deadly skin cancers.

Mr Griffiths said the Consumers' Association, the Cancer Research Campaign and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund were now calling for action to clarify how sunscreen should be used to protect against skin cancer.

Calculations by Labour's Consumer Policy Unit have disclosed, he said, that a family of four could have to pay up to £313.74 for sunscreen

coverage over a two-week holiday.

"Considering the high price, it is no wonder that 46 per cent of sunbathers do not use sunscreen at all," Mr Griffiths said.

He added that the calculation was based on market research conducted by the CA. This showed that the top 25 per cent of recommended sunscreens cost an average of £2.49 per adult application. For a family of four, including two young children, this would equal £7.47 per application. Applied three times a day over two weeks (42 applications), the sunscreen would cost £313.74.

Mr Griffiths said: "It should be the duty of manufacturers to clearly label their product and protect consumers from the pain of sunburn and the threat of cancer. It is clear the public

are confused and the manufacturers have not acted to resolve the problems."

"It is absurd that so many people pay so much and yet have to learn the hard way how unprotective their sunscreen is."

He added: "Labelling has to be clearer and manufacturers should make the product available at prices people can afford."

Mr Griffiths said that 40,000 Britons were diagnosed with skin cancer and that 2,000 deaths were attributed to it each year.

In Scotland, where cases of melanoma, the most dangerous of skin cancers, have risen by a staggering 240 per cent in 20 years, the dangers of misleading labelling of sunscreens are even more real," he added.

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سكرا من الامم

State of the union: With four in ten couples now divorcing, research into the pressures faced by newly-weds is long overdue

What makes marriage heaven or hell

ROGER DOBSON
and JOJO MOYES

Tolstoy once said: "All happy families resemble one another, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." Psychologists evidently disagree: they are seeking 200 newly-wed couples in order to discover what makes a happy couple and why so many apparently perfect marriages quickly spiral into unhappiness.

The couples will be tracked by Government-funded academics for three years to see how the relationships change under pressure from all sides, from relatives and friends, to house work and money. The unlikely research has never been more pertinent, with more than four in 10 marriages ending in divorce, at a huge financial and emotional cost to those involved.

Professor Frank Fincham and a team from the University of Wales, Cardiff, will study relationships between the newlyweds with the aim of improving pre-marital counselling by signposting the pitfalls.

"We know very little about the development of a marriage and what happens to couples in the early years of marriage. If we understand what is happening, we can do a better job with pre-marital counselling because we can tailor the counselling to what we know," he said yesterday.

The team, who received a £144,120 grant from the Economic and Social Research Council for the work, will ask why newly-weds are happy, how they stay happy and what kinds of problems creep into the relationship.

In 1993, the latest year for which figures are available, 299,200 couples said "I do" - at an average cost of £11,500 - and 165,000 said "I don't" - at almost the same cost. Family breakdown costs the country more than £4 billion a year in benefits, lost tax, legal and health bills.

In 1993, 23 per cent of marriages that ended in divorce had lasted less than five years. This suggests that many couples were unprepared for marriage, that their expectations were unrealistic, or that they faced particular pressures, such as parenthood.

The rising divorce rate is a



It's good to talk: Ronald and Florence Coleman, who have been married for 29 years, say they talk through every decision and never go to bed on an argument. "We have our arguments - who doesn't - but Ron always makes me a cup of tea afterwards and we chat about it," says Mrs Coleman. Photograph: Edward Sykes

significant factor in the doubling of single households in the past 15 years. There were 6.8 million last year - a figure predicted to rise to eight million by the end of the decade. This coincides with research showing that people living alone tend to be younger, richer and happier with their lives.

Yesterday also saw the release of new figures from Relate, the marriage guidance organisation, which suggest that whereas most divorces take

place between years five and nine, most couples who turn to counselling are their tenth year of marriage.

The average age of clients who come for counselling is 37 for men, and 34 for women - roughly 10 years after the average age for marriage.

"Our hypothesis is that it's to do with the arrival of children in a relationship. It's often quite a difficult time for couples," said Julia Cole, spokesperson for Relate.

She said that survey evidence showed a number of factors which were likely to increase the risk of divorce: if couples marry before the age of 21; if their parents were divorced; if they live together before marriage and if they belong in the bottom two social classes.

She cited the two key things that helped make a happy marriage as flexibility and the ability to communicate. "It's important that there are no taboo subjects. People who

come to counselling say time and time again 'I wanted to be able to say something but I didn't know how to raise it', she said. "Taboo subjects eat away at a relationship like a cancer."

In Professor Fincham's study, couples will be observed talking to each other and will also undergo computer tests. Crucial questions include: Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together? Do you confide in your mate? How do you share the house-

hold chores? How has your expectation of your mate changed?

Professor Fincham said there was no question of producing a standard template. "Each couple is unique, but there are common elements which we will be looking at," he said.

But so far his team has had little success in getting volunteers to tie the knot. "The registry office seems unwilling to hand out a notice. I've also made contact with vicars and

priests and I've even visited St Catherine's House in London to track down the official records of newly-weds, only to find the most recent records are for 1994," he said.

A Newly-wed Couples Hotline has been set up at the university for paid volunteers who will undergo a three-hour initial interview followed by sessions over the next three years.

Newly-wed hotline: 01222-874932

Bittersweet advice

A marriage is likely to be called happy if neither party ever expected to get much happiness out of it.

Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)

The most difficult year of marriage is the year you're in

Franklin P. Jones

Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance.

Jane Austen (1775-1817)

Before marriage, a man will lie awake thinking about something you said; after marriage, he'll fall asleep before you finish saying it.

Helen Rowland (1875-1950)
American journalist

By all means marry: if you get a good wife you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

Socrates (469-399 BC)

Marriage is the greatest earthly happiness when founded on complete sympathy

Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)

Flower-power remedy proves equal of anti-depressant drugs

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

A folk medicine traditionally used to treat depression is as effective as standard anti-depressant drugs and has fewer side-effects, according to a new study.

Extracts of St John's wort (*hypericum perforatum*), a common garden plant with a profusion of yellow flowers, have been used in folk medicine for hundreds of years to treat a range of illnesses.

In some European countries, particularly Germany, it is widely accepted as an effective treatment for psychological problems. In 1994, German doctors prescribed 66 million daily doses of the herbal remedy, known also as hypericum, worth about £26m.

Now scientists from Germany and the United States, have analysed the results of 23 clinical trials involving 1,757 patients with mild or moderate depression who were treated with St John's wort extracts, or a combination of this and other plant extracts, or a placebo, or another drug treatment.

Professor Cynthia Mulrow and colleagues at the San Antonio Cochrane Center, in Texas, and a team led by Dieter Melchart at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich,



Growing reputation: St John's wort - used to lift depression

found that St John's wort was "significantly superior" to a placebo, and equally effective as standard anti-depressants.

According to the report in tomorrow's issue of the *British Medical Journal*, there were less than 1 per cent drop outs for side-effects with St John's wort, and 3 per cent with standard anti-depressant drugs. Side-effects occurred in less than 20 per cent of St John's

wort patients, and 53 per cent of those on standard anti-depressants.

The team concluded that St John's wort was a promising treatment for depressive disorders, while emphasising that further research was needed to evaluate its safety and side effects. "We believe there is good evidence that hypericum is better than placebo in treating some depressive disorders," the

doctors wrote. "We do not yet know if hypericum is better in treating certain depressive disorders than others, and neither do we know if different preparations of hypericum are equally effective or the optimum dosages."

In an accompanying *BMJ* editorial, Peter De Smet, a clinical pharmacologist at the Royal Dutch Association for the Advancement of Pharmacy, said that despite evidence that the plant extract was safe and well-tolerated - there has not been a single report about a serious drug interaction or toxicity in Germany after extensive use - caution was necessary. Extra studies to determine if St John's wort was of use in severe depression were also needed.

St John's wort contains at least 10 substances that may contribute to its effectiveness as an anti-depressant, including hypericum - thought to inhibit an important enzyme in the brain, which has an effect on neurotransmitters which relay messages between brain cells. The remedy is licensed in Germany for the treatment of anxiety, depression and sleep disorders. There are about 400 species of St John's wort found throughout the world, and it grows well except in extremes of temperature such as the tropics, deserts, and the Arctic.

How chess prodigy is kept in check

WILLIAM HARTSTON
Chess Correspondent

Former Russian boxer, now resident in the United States, seeks clever, modest, stay-at-home girl from good family. Nationality unimportant. Will pay costs of travel and education. Preferred age-range 13 to 14. Independence guaranteed at 21. Successful applicant may also fall in love with son of advertiser.

That, in a nutshell, is Rustam Kamsky's plan unveiled in an interview in the latest issue of the *British Chess Magazine*. Mr Kamsky's son, Gata, recently failed in his challenge to Anatoly Karpov for the Fide (International Chess Federation)

world championship, but Kamsky senior has now let it be known that his plans for his son extend beyond the chess board.

At 21, Gata is undoubtedly one of the most exciting prospects in the chess world, yet for the past seven or eight years, his passage has been far from smooth.

Coached by his father, first to be a musical prodigy then a chess player, Gata has led a reclusive existence, studying for 13 or 14 hours a day with total dedication. Apart from supervising his son's chess studies, Mr Kamsky has lost his temper with opponents (threatening to kill Nigel Short in one notable outburst), complained about rivals

who were allegedly poisoning Gata's food, and irritated sponsors when playing conditions, or financial arrangements, did not meet his expectations.

While Gata himself behaves impeccably at the board, hardly any of his tournaments or matches has passed without some outburst from Kamsky père. Fisticuffs are rare, but shouting matches all too common. In the latest title match, it was a row with Karpov and the organisers about the rules at the start, then a complaint against two operators in the computer room that they might be passing information to the champion.

Until recently, all efforts seemed dedicated to the sole

objective of capturing the world title, but now that Gata is 21, Mr Kamsky's horizons have widened. "I want to avoid bad and chance encounters for my son," he explained, "the mistakes of youth."

He has even talked about giving up chess and finding a new career for Gata - medicine is currently the field that he finds most attractive. "I am dreaming that my son should be a normal person with a good profession, interesting work, family, children, a house with a garden and a dog."

And Gata's opinion? "It does not matter," said his father, "because I am the master of the house. It's up to me to decide."

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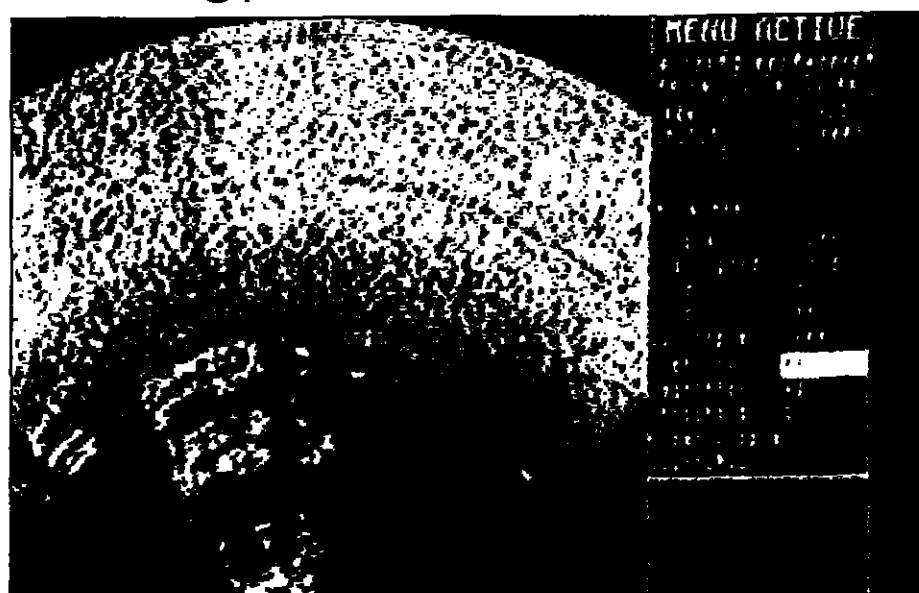
TIN1

news

Sea gives up its secrets as investigators locate last resting place of British carrier 'Derbyshire'



Into the deep: Video images of the *Derbyshire's* broken hull, (left), and a decaying section of the vessel (below). The radar image (right) which pinpointed the site of the wreckage for the expedition. The pictures appear to rule out a theory that the ship's rudder had become detached, causing it to lose control



CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

Both sections of the bulk carrier *Derbyshire*, which sank 16 years ago in the South China Sea, have been located by an expedition trying to discover why it sank.

The wreckage of the 90,000-ton ship - which was built on Teesside - lies 4,200 metres under the sea, 1,000 miles south-east of Japan. The main bow section was first discovered by an expedition funded by the International Transport Federation (ITF), a union-funded body, last year and an expedition, carried out last week, has now found the stern section about 600-700 metres away.

Video footage taken by re-

Split bulkhead seen on video of wreck

mote cameras show the ship split at bulkhead 65, and this may have caused the disaster. At this stage, however, it is not possible to say whether the bulkhead failure caused the accident, or whether it was a consequence of other problems.

The expedition is part of a £2m two-part survey which has been mounted after pressure from the relatives of the 44 people lost on board to try to discover what caused the loss. The second stage will take place early next year and will involve

around 40 days of survey work which it is hoped will solve the 16-year mystery.

Sister ships of the *Derbyshire* were all reported to suffer structural problems - and one of them, the *Kowloon Bridge*, broke in two after running aground in 1986.

For many years, the Department of Transport refused to undertake a survey and it was only when evidence was brought back by the ITF that it bowed to pressure from the families. Yesterday, the three assessors

carrying out the survey showed the video footage to the families before releasing it to the press. One of the assessors, Robin Williams, said that some of the families found it upsetting "but we tried to prepare them as best as possible". There was no sign of human remains.

The video clearly removes one possibility raised by the inconclusive inquiry into the disaster - that the *Derbyshire* had run into problems in high seas after losing its rudder. The rudder can be clearly seen in its normal position, and Mr Williams believes that an adjacent heap of mud will prove to hide the possibility that it fell off. However, another 11 possible causes remain to be considered.

Mayor ousted in Orange backlash

MICHAEL STREETER
Belfast

The Unionist mayor of Londonderry who was stripped of his powers over his role in an Orange Order road block is threatening to sue his own council.

The decision by city council to effectively make alderman Richard Dallas a lame duck mayor is one of a number of signs of nationalists' growing anger following the Orange march through Drumcree.

SDLP MP Joe Hendron is tabling a parliamentary question over the alleged presence of a police authority councillor, Trevor Wilson, at a Loyalist blockade in Cookstown in the week of the Drumcree protest. The police authority, after a meeting with the Unionist councillor, says it is taking no further action.

Nationalists are also trying to remove powers from a senior Unionist councillor on Magherafelt District Council, following claims that he also took part in a road block.

The Catholic boycott of Protestant businesses in Castlederg, Co Tyrone, was sparked by similar allegations against local Unionist businessmen.

Mr Dallas said he feared other councils would follow the lead of Derry City Council and take sanctions against Unionists. The mayor, who was present at a road block on Craigavon Bridge, in the heart of Londonderry, on 10 July, said his council's decision was illegal and that he would be seeking legal advice.

He had been "castigated and demoralised" by the nationalist community simply for acting according to his Unionist convictions, he said.

The vote on Wednesday evening means Mr Dallas has been stripped of his mayor's car,

official offices and secretarial support; he is not allowed to carry out civic duties, although he insists he will attend some.

Mr Pat Devine, the SDLP leader in Londonderry, said Mr Dallas's actions had gone beyond what was reasonable for a mayor who was supposed to represent the entire local community. He said Mr Dallas would have to make amends before his powers were restored. "The simplest solution would be for him to resign," Mr Devine said.

The week-long protests in



Richard Dallas: in trouble over presence at a road block

early July by Orange men included setting up hundreds of road blocks around the province and demonstrations against the RUC's decision to ban a march past a Catholic area of Portadown in Co Armagh. The reversal of the decision in the face of massive Orange protests has caused great anger in the nationalist community, which insists the police gave way to mob rule.

The effect of the disorder surrounding Drumcree has encouraged the multi-party peace talks at Stormont, which have adjourned for the summer, and seems likely to be felt in Northern Ireland for a long time.

Mail dispute set to defeat union leader

Chances of settlement fade as activists get angrier, reports
Barrie Clement

It has been a long and vicious war at the Royal Mail and Alan Johnson, leader of 130,000 postal workers, has become one of its victims.

Mr Johnson may make one more attempt today to impress the postal executive of the Communication Workers' Union with his favoured solution to the long-running dispute. Otherwise, the committee may order more stoppages to follow next Tuesday's scheduled strike.

It has been a long and depressing haul for the general secretary of the CWU. Over the last two years his members have been involved in a series of damaging skirmishes with management largely concerned with fears over job security. According to some estimates the stoppages - most of them unlawful - made up one in three of the days lost through strike action in the entire economy.

Along with senior management - with whom he is on good terms - Mr Johnson has brokered ceasefires in local disputes rather than peace settlements. And when his union seemed to be heading for an official national dispute with the Post Office, he spent weeks trying to restrain his activists with proposed settlements.

Then, reluctantly, he called a nationwide strike ballot in protest at productivity proposals and in pursuit of greater job security. The result tended to undermine management's theory that the unrest was simply being fomented by activists. Members of the CWU voted three to one for national strikes.

More talks were hurriedly undertaken by Mr Johnson, but the executive - which is in day-to-day

control of the dispute - rejected management's amendments to its "New Way of Working" proposals and their attempts to reassure staff about their future.

Finally, CWU walked out on their first national stoppage on 21 June. There were a further two walkouts while Mr Johnson continued attempts to reach a settlement. All proved fruitless.

Then came his most embarrassing miscalculation of the mood of his colleagues. Having persuaded them to call off last Friday's walkout under government threats to withdraw the Royal Mail monopoly on delivering letters, he went on to agree with management a settlement that he felt confident of selling to the executive. He proclaimed publicly that a deal was virtually complete.

His colleagues, however, felt he was "bouncing" them into a settlement. Voices were raised and fingers were wagged and they refused to accept it. So incensed was the executive that they rowed back on all the nods and winks conceded in hundreds of hours of talks. Yesterday, as activists gathered in London, the clock had been turned back to March when the present negotiations began.

The main management concession secured by Mr Johnson was that the productivity proposals would be the subject of prolonged negotiation, with study groups, pilot trials and joint talks over 15 months. In particular, "team-working" would not necessarily result from the talks.

In return Mr Johnson agreed that his union would drop the objection in principle to group working. The executive rejected that on the grounds that such working methods would sideline the union and was simply a device for extracting the maximum amount of work from employees for the minimum in return.

Given Mr Johnson's reluctance to lead the union into industrial action in the first place, he may be one of the last people qualified to bring it to an end.

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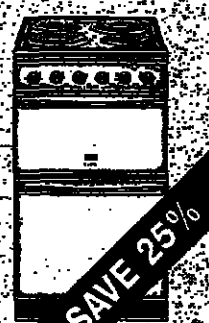
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Long, hot summers and a desire for active holidays are giving our native shores a new allure for those in need of a break

Taking time out, at home in Britain

GLENDIA COOPER

The image of a wet weekend in Bognor is dead. The hot summer of 1995 lured Britons away from Mediterranean beaches to spend more time and a record amount of money in England.

Llama-trekking on the South Downs, driving tanks in Norfolk, murder mystery weekends in country houses – all are digging away at traditional bucket-and-spade breaks in the sun.

The annual report of the English Tourist Board (ETB) reveals that spending on domestic tourism – one or more nights away from home – rose by 10 per cent last year, making a total of 99.6 million trips. An even bigger increase in holidays lasting four to seven days – 13 per cent – helped raise domestic spending to a record £6.8bn.

Seaside holidays are still our favourite, accounting for nearly two in five trips in England and generating £3bn. The most popular destination remained the West Country, home of cream teas and sunny beaches.

However, the biggest growth was recorded in Northumbria – 25 per cent up. There were also 9.6 million trips to the North West, 10.2 million to Yorkshire and Humberside and 3.3 million to Cumbria.

"The North has done brilliantly," said Tim Bartlett, the ETB's chief executive. "We're moving away from the idea of lying on a beach sweltering. People like to go walking, cycling... and there is beautiful open countryside in somewhere like Cumbria."

The second biggest improvement was in London, which saw 10.4 million trips. "London has become a very fashionable place," said Mr

Bartlett. "There is a tremendous amount of new developments like the Trocadero. There is a theatrical renaissance going on, whatever Trevor Nunn might say. And we have some of the best restaurants in the world."

Total turnover of tourism for the UK in 1995 was more than £37bn. It provided 1.7m jobs and accounted for more than 5 per cent of gross domestic product.

The figures for 1995 came before the end of the IRA ceasefire, but the ETB are hoping that the recent bombings in London and Manchester will not dent this year's numbers.

"If there is any impression, it is usually short lived," said Mr Bartlett.

The chairman of the ETB, David Quarumby, said there was still much to be done to improve services for visitors.

"The information revolution has so far passed the tourist industry by," he said. "Yet it is the one consumer sector where information is most critical, because of the non-routine nature of the purchase decision, and the degree of fragmentation."

Mr Quarumby added: "I would like to see national tourist information available on a freephone 0800 number. Also we are only nibbling at the edges of information on tourism on the Internet."

But the Costa Brava is not forgotten. A spokeswoman for the Association of British Travel Agents said: "The lure of the foreign holiday remains strong. People are not giving up going abroad; they are taking a break in England as well."

English Tourist Board Annual Report; £15; Mail Order Sales, ETB, Thames Tower, Black's Road, London W6 9EL.

Leading article, page 13

Where we went and what we spent

Destination	Trips (millions)	Spending (£m)
West Country	15.8	2,220
Southern England	12.4	1,100
East Anglia	11.0	960
London	10.4	880
York & Humberside	10.2	850
North West	9.6	1,060
Heart of England	9.6	715
South East	8.9	725
East Midlands	8.0	710
Northumbria	3.8	970
Cumbria	3.3	410

Source: ETB/ETB

British 'malaria zone' set to defy NHS drug ban

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

A London health authority is on collision course with the Government over its plan to defy the ban on prescribing anti-malarial drugs on NHS prescription.

The Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority, says it is vital that its GPs should be able to make the drugs available to the local population, many of whom travel frequently to Africa. Four times as many cases of malaria, a potentially life-threatening disease, are reported in south-east London as in the rest of England and Wales.

The authority has the backing of local medical and pharmaceutical committees, and pharmacists have been assured that they will be reimbursed if they dispense the drugs.

However, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health said yesterday that the authority would be breaking the law if it went ahead. "They are going to have to rethink their policy because it is illegal," she said.

Under regulations which came into effect in February last year, a GP can only write a private prescription for anti-malarial drugs. The Government's attitude is that if people can afford foreign holidays then they should budget for the drugs. Anti-malarials which have other clinical uses, such as the treatment of gout, can be prescribed on an NHS prescription, but for those conditions only.

A health authority spokeswoman said discussions with the Department were under way, but denied it was acting illegally. "Our understanding is that the Department has guidelines, not regulations, on this."

Simon Hughes, spokesman on health for the Liberal Democrats, whose brother Richard died of malaria after returning from honeymoon in Kenya in 1992, welcomed the health authority's decision, and hailed it as a "landmark" policy.

He urged other authorities to follow suit, and said that free anti-malarial drugs would not only prevent malaria, but would also save money spent on hospital treatment in this country.

"The Government must take this message very seriously. If it does not restore free travel vaccines, then health authorities will do so even if they have to break the law to do it," he said. "I call on other health authorities to follow the brave lead set by Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, for the public health, but also for financial savings."

A survey by the health authority found that in 1995, 270 cases were identified in its area, of which only 75 were formally reported.

Most of the victims were British residents of African descent who caught the illness while on trips to Nigeria, Ghana or Uganda. They often had not taken precautions because they believed themselves immune after previously living in a malarial country.



Leaping ahead: Tynemouth in the North East, an increasingly popular holiday destination

Photograph: Ted Ditchburn

Our newly favoured friends in the North

LOUISE JURY

It has Hadrian's Wall, Durham cathedral, Europe's biggest shopping centre and one of Britain's most unspoilt national parks. And Newcastle United.

Tourism chiefs believe the publicity generated by Kevin Keegan's football team has been the icing on the cake in Northumbria's rise to public consciousness.

Northumbria, the four north-eastern counties of Durham, Cleveland, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland, has shown the fastest growth in attracting overseas visitors of any English region over the past decade.

Last year it was the fastest growing destination for the British on holiday with a 23 per cent increase in numbers on the previous year and a 53 per cent rise in the amount they spent.

Peter Sloyan, Northumbria Tourist Board's chief executive, said: "It is a tribute to the

people who make the beds, serve the teas and work in the craft shops. People have heard so much about collieries and shipyards and back-to-back houses that it has held us back in the past. But it appears that that perception is going."

American travel agents voted Newcastle the eighth best party-city in the world (the only English contender) while the Council for the Protection of Rural England found it the most tranquil area in the country. But football has been the big new contributor to the fast-growing factor with Newcastle United, Middlesbrough and now Sunderland all in the Premiership.

Newcastle United was not surprised. "The sort of support we get here is absolutely staggering," a spokesman said.

The club's connection with the regeneration is close. Sir John Hall, its chairman, was behind Europe's largest shopping centre, the Metro, in Gateshead.



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news

Home Office: guns are linked to crime

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

The Home Office hit back yesterday at attacks by the gun lobby on its evidence to the Cullen inquiry, which suggests links between gun ownership and crime.

A detailed 29-page document came in response to Lord Cullen's request for a Home Office reply to the criticisms.

The paper insisted: "None of the commentators have seriously challenged the broad conclusion drawn ... that there is a correlation between international levels of gun ownership and gun homicide and that gun ownership probably increases overall homicide rates."

It continued: "It is felt significant, too, that no serious challenge was made of the similar correlation between gun ownership and gun-related suicides, or of the fact that ... marked differences in levels of gun-related crime in the US compared to England & Wales are not echoed in offences in which guns are not involved."

The Home Office said that the document did not constitute Government policy and was

not intended to pre-judge the response ministers would eventually make to the Cullen report.

But the paper's emphatic tone will be welcomed by campaigners for a ban on handguns.

"The commentators (and those whose opinions they draw upon) are largely critical of gun control. They challenge specific pieces of research without acknowledging that no single study is ever watertight, including those they themselves quote," it said. "The general message of the research note - that there is evidence from a variety of sources of a correlation between gun ownership and gun crime - is overlooked."

More than 30 times more gun killings take place in the US than in the UK, and for those involving handguns the toll is 150 times higher. For non-gun killings the figure is just two-and-a-half times higher. Numbers of all gun-related crimes appear to be far greater than would be expected from differences in recorded crime for other offences, the paper says.

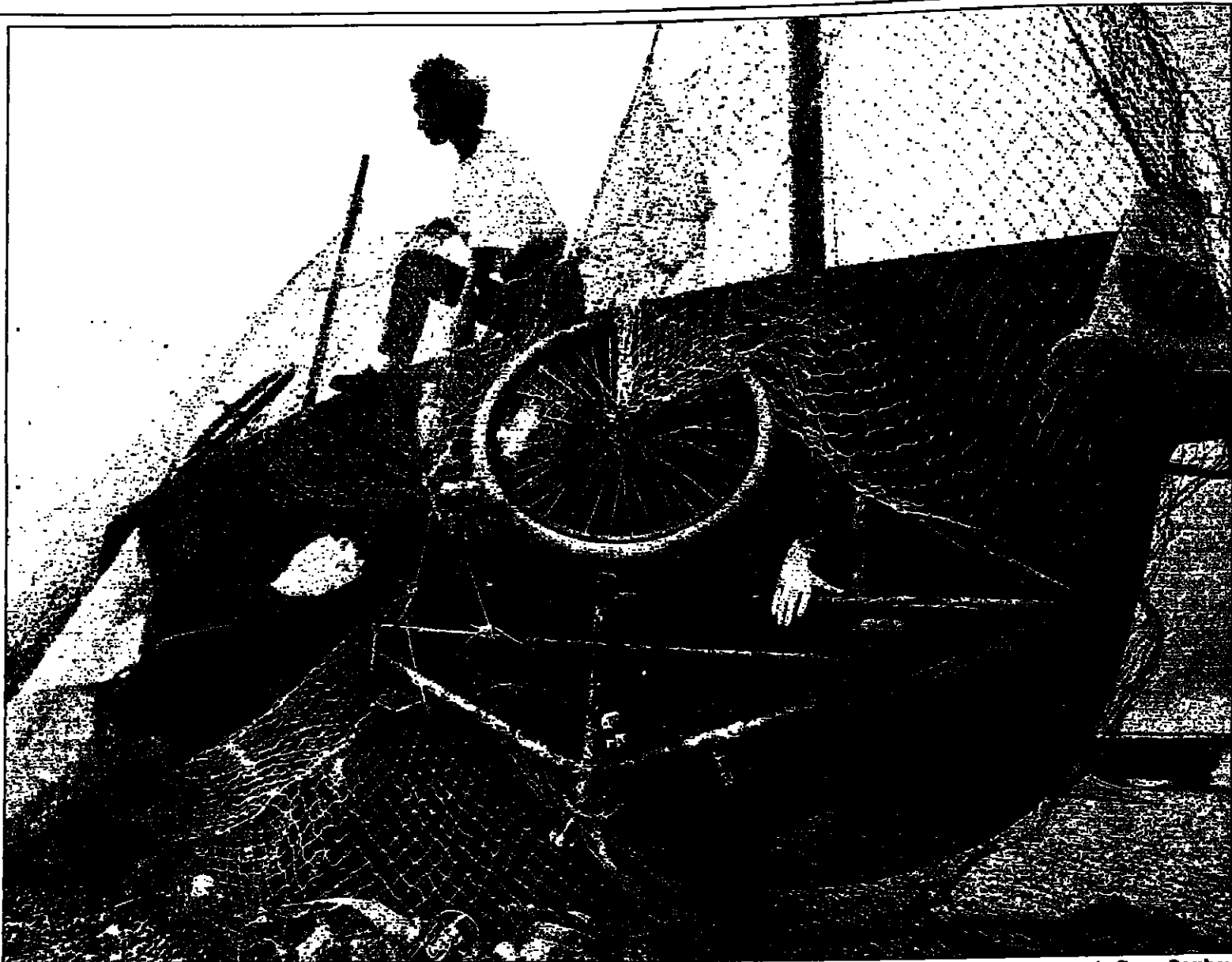
Donald Dewar, Labour's Chief Whip, yesterday stepped up pressure on the Government

to outlaw private ownership of handguns.

"I can assure the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary that if they try to rediscover the plot on law and order and introduce legislation to ban handguns, the Labour party will back them," he said.

Mr Dewar maintained that a significant number of Tories would oppose such a measure. "The question is whether John Major will have the courage to face them down. If he does he will get our support."

According to a compilation by Labour from *Dod's*, the parliamentary reference book, the following forty MPs list shooting as a recreation: Rupert Allason, Peter Atkinson, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Timothy Boswell, John Carlisle, Alan Duncan, Edward Garnier, Charles Goodson-Wickes, Warren Hawksley, David Heathcoat-Amory, Sir Nicholas Lyell (the Attorney General), Sir Hector Monroe, Michael Morris, Sir Stanley Oslove, Richard Page, James Paice, Graham Riddick, Andrew Robathan, Peter Temple-Morris, David Tredinnick and Nigel Waterson.



Net issue: Susannah Hicking, Reader Digest environment expert, launching the Beachwatch 96 clean-up at Brighton

Photograph: Roger Bamber

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Universities in £13m drive to recruit students

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Universities will spend at least £13m on advertising their courses in the next year - enough to save more than 500 of the 3,000 jobs which are likely to be lost this year because of government spending cuts.

New research shows that although there will be a drop from last year's all-time high of £14m, many universities and colleges will still rely heavily on advertising to fill their courses after the A level results are published this month.

Because funding follows each student, it is crucial for universities to keep numbers up even if they are having to cut staff jobs at the same time.

Many new universities cannot fill all their places through the conventional entrance system and rely on the clearing system to find students who have not been accepted into the course of their choice.

Last night, university lecturers' leaders condemned the competition that has developed in higher education and predicted that 8,000 jobs would be lost in the next three years.

Universities have suffered a 5 per cent overall cut in budgets this year and will face a 50 per cent drop in capital funding over the next three years. Among those which expect to lose most of staff are Aston, which has announced 130 voluntary redundancies, and Sheffield, which is looking for 250.

David Triesman, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said universities faced the dilemma of cutting marketing budgets and losing students, or keeping them up and being forced to cut staff.

"The idea of a system which is as crudely competitive between institutions as ours is absurd. What we need is co-operation, not cut-throat competition," he said.

Jonathan Reay, spokesman for Riley Research, which compiled the report on last year's admissions process, said that although £5m of the £14m spent in 1995 had been during clearing, more universities were now spreading their efforts throughout the year.

"I think there has been a definite squeeze on marketing budgets as a result of the cuts. But it is now very clear to everybody in the sector that if you don't get the students you don't get the funding. If you don't get the funding you can't keep the jobs and you are in a downward spiral."

Last year, the University of Central England was only new university which did not advertise in the national press during the month-long clearing process. Its pro-vice-chancellor, David Warner, said: "My view is that every pound I spend on marketing is a pound not spent on teaching and learning. One should look extremely carefully at every aspect of it," he said.

The top advertisers in 1995 were: De Montfort, £223,608; Luton, £192,230; Huddersfield, £162,758; Greenwich, £101,734; and Sheffield Hallam, £90,935.

DAILY POEM

The Secret of Burning Diamonds

By Tobias Hill

Bought from the marts of Amsterdam,
the city built on herring-bones,
where emeralds dug in Serendip
shone and stank of mullet-skin -

This one was the first to burn.
A diamond dull as the flat gel
of a cod's eye. Quoted as point eight
carats, colouring poor, brilliance
sub-poor. Smelling of mine-mud.
Heart-flawed, the merchants at Rialto said,
and wouldn't pawn it for a pipe.

Not for the rose-cut, this one,
its chandelier hatchmarked with cracks.
curio, knick-knack, souvenir
from Orange. Forgotten in a pocket,
the strongest substance in the world:

diamond. A lock gaping for keys.
Open as glass, giving away
nothing. Not that the cut skin
is lacquered with hydrogen,
or that this clenched strength
will burn -

Lavoisier, the alchemist,
buys it in the Jewish Quarter
for the price of a sausage.
Later, he'll invent oxygen.

Tobias Hill published a first short collection *Year of the Dog* (National Poetry Foundation), based on his experiences of teaching in Japan, last year at the age of 25. In the same year he won an Eric Gregory award from the Society of Authors, and this September joins the Oxford Poets with *Midnight in the City of Clocks* (OUP). Faber publish a short story collection, *Skin*, in 1997.

سكس من الاصل

Globe director demands his pound of flesh

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre has fallen foul of critics before it has even opened — by trying to charge them to review its debut production of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

Theatre critics were surprised and offended to receive a letter yesterday from the artistic director, Mark Rylance, asking them to buy their own tickets because the Globe still needed to raise £6.7m for education and exhibition facilities. One phrase in his missive has aroused particular spleen: "If you cannot afford to buy a ticket, or feel it is improper for me to ask this of you, please accept one free from us on Saturday 24 August."

Not only is it almost unheard-of for critics to buy their own tickets, but the reviewers believe that it is a particularly distasteful method of persuading them to do so.

Nicholas de Jongh, the London *Evening Standard's* theatre critic, said he was "very surprised" by the letter. "It seems rather strange to worry about £16 multiplied by 12, which comes to less than £200," he said. "I think he is just a rather silly young man, although a rather bright one."

The consensus is that Mr Rylance may be getting his own back on the critics who almost universally panned his production of *Macbeth* at Greenwich Theatre last year in which Rylance sported a Hare Krishna skirt and wood tattoos.

Michael Coveney, the *Observer's* critic, said it was "bad PR... It may be some revenge on the critics who didn't like his production of *Macbeth*". David Nathan, theatre critic for the *Jewish Chronicle*, added: "I'm not going to go cap in hand to Mark Rylance and say, 'Please can I have a ticket'. I've been a critic on and off for nearly 40 years and I've never been approached in this way before."

A spokeswoman for the Globe insisted the reason was purely financial: "It's a policy not to give out complimentary tickets at this stage because we really do need every penny," she said. Mr Rylance has compounded his difficulties by offering critics — some suspect deliberately — the free tickets on a bank holiday weekend. This, too, is highly unusual. The theatre's opening, on 21 August, could hardly be worse timed, since it falls in the middle of the Edinburgh Festival. "He couldn't have designed a more stupid time if he had sat down and thought about it," one critic commented drily.

Observers are having growing doubts about the entire project, which some believe is in danger of becoming more like a Shakespeare theme park than the serious theatre it was intended to be.

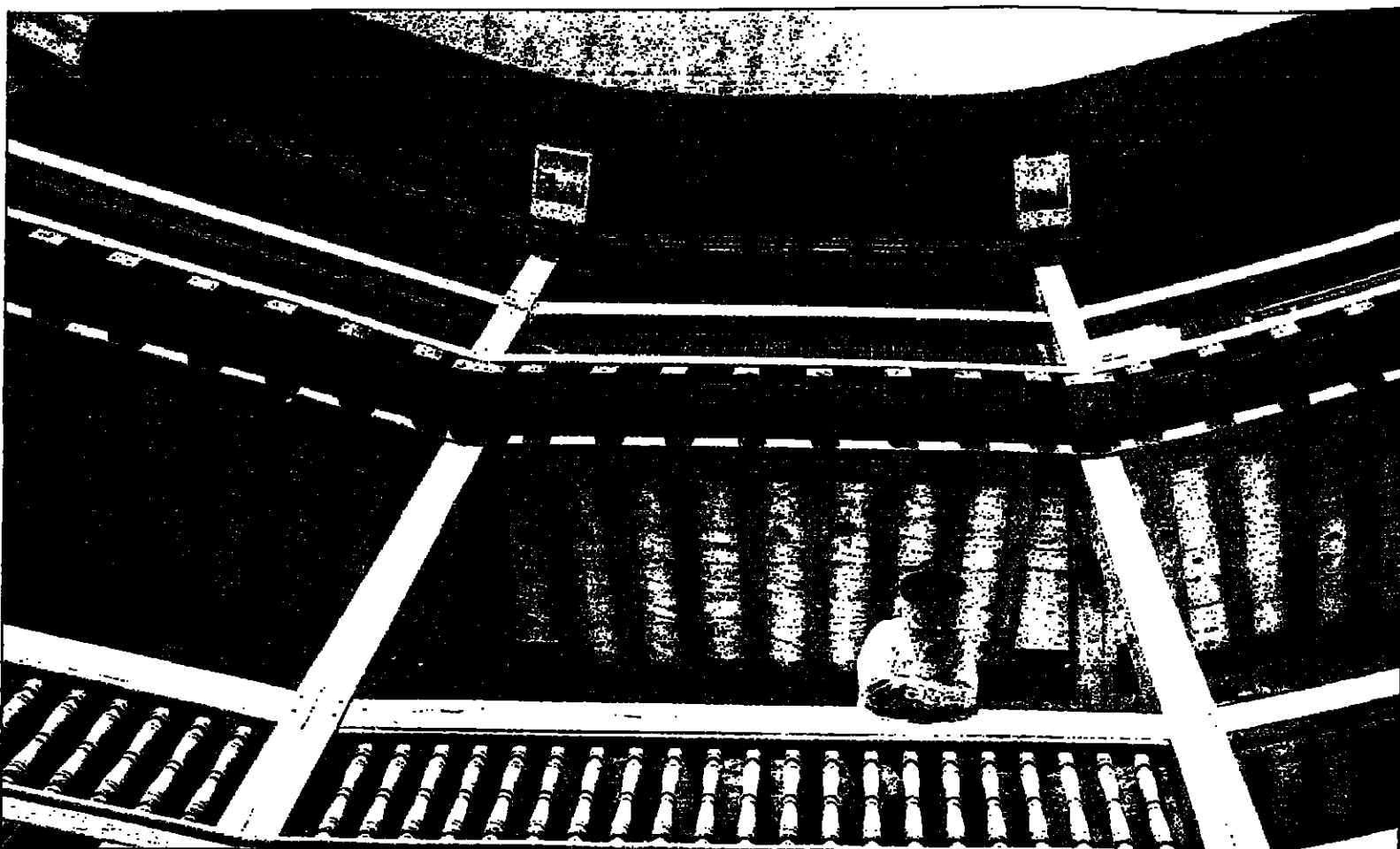
The late Sam Wanamaker conceived the theatre on the south bank of the Thames as a replica of the 16th century

Globe, and the open-air space has been laboriously constructed using the same techniques.

Unfortunately, a proportion of the audience in the back rows will find it hard to hear the performance as a result. They will have even more difficulty if, as Mr Rylance hopes, the audience heckle and treat the theatre "like a bear-baiting pit".

Mr Rylance's choice of *The Two Gentlemen* — in which he will star as Proteus — to open the theatre has also been greeted with surprise.

It is thought not to be very successful as a play and Mr Rylance has himself conceded he was inspired to choose it by a dream of his wife's.



Sings and arrows: Mark Rylance, who has angered critics planning to review the reconstructed Globe Theatre's opening production

Photograph: Edward Webb

The theatre:
'We really do need every penny'

The critics:
'It may be some revenge' — Michael Coveney, the *Observer*

'I think he is just a rather silly young man' — Nicholas de Jongh, *Evening Standard*

Keep them out of our BIER

Virginia Woolf: A woman's view

Surprisingly, I'm the first English woman writer to write a full scholarly biography of Virginia Woolf. There hasn't been a full-scale one using a lot of primary material written in England since the book by her nephew Quentin Bell in 1972. He rather depoliticised her — we have a friendly argument about that.

I've tried to react against some of the standard lines on her that have become accepted in the last 10 or 15 years. I resist the image of Virginia Woolf as someone whose life was destroyed by madness and rendered painful all the way through by things which happened to her in her childhood — her mother died when she was 13 and her half-brothers had an oppressive relationship with her, with a lot of unwanted physical contact — or as someone repressed by her husband.

In fact, she was very funny and had a very sharp eye for political events. So in my book you get her reading of the General Strike, her views on the abdication crisis, and her reaction to the rise of fascism.

There's a lot of unpleasantness around Virginia Woolf and I don't try to walk around it. She was notoriously spiteful and malicious and could be very unkind. But she was more critical of herself than anyone else could ever be.

The book draws on new ev-

First Person

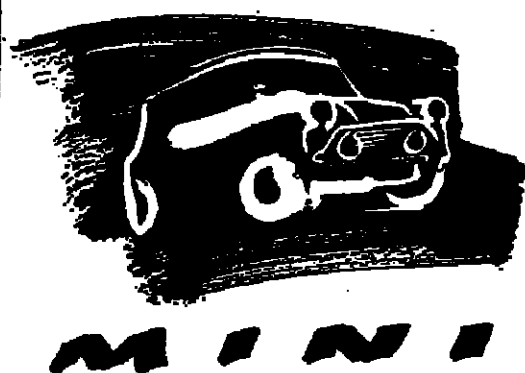
Hermione Lee, Professor of English Literature at York University, has devoted five years to a biography of Virginia Woolf, who drowned herself in 1941 during an attack of mental illness. *Virginia Woolf* is published next month by Chatto, price £10

idence. There are a number of her letters which haven't been published, for example the correspondence in Hull with Winifred Holtby who wrote Woolf's biography during her lifetime.

You can see Virginia was half not wanting to tell her anything and half flattered and pretending she hadn't read it.

There is also a lot of correspondence which refers to her. Clive Bell, Woolf's brother-in-law, had a long relationship with Mary Hutchinson — although they were both married to other people — and Clive often made unkind references to Virginia Woolf. One letter has a rather good description of her having her first driving lesson from her husband Leonard, backing into a brick wall and saying crossly: "I would be able to do this perfectly well if no one was watching me!"

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND?



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Things used to be so simple. Vegetables were vegetables. London's red buses had room for one more on top and in Bremen, Beck's made a bier so lovingly consistent that it hadn't changed in over one hundred and twenty years.

But now we have Brussels. Well-meaning chaps, but perhaps on occasion a little over zealous? For the carrot is now deemed to be a fruit and the days of the double decker could be numbered. Now, that leaves us at Beck's feeling very protective about our bier.

Imagine this. You are teasing yourself with an ice cold Beck's, a mere millimetre from your lips. You anticipate the melange of Hallertau hops and yeast combined with the purest glacial water from an ancient underground spring. Then, in sheer awe of the craftsmanship of the Bremen brewmasters, you succumb to temptation.

But your tastebuds tell you something is wrong. Your Beck's is not your Beck's. And do you know why? Because in pursuit of European harmonisation it has been decreed that all bier must now be brewed with standardised water.

Well, dear old British friend, because with your support and our dogged adherence to the Reinheitsgebot (our brewers' purity law), you'll never find a hint of Brussels in a bottle of Beck's.

Yes we sample Brussels' safety standards and respect their commitment to the environment. But when it comes to our bier it's no, nein, non.

international

Syria and Israel warn of brutal war in Lebanon

Beirut — The seeds of a new and brutal war in southern Lebanon are being sown this week as a virtually powerless ceasefire committee prepares to start work amid threats from Israel of "uncontrollable escalation" and a warning from Syria of a "war option" if the conflict is not resolved.

This menacing exchange has effectively changed the "land for peace" equation upon which the Arabs and Israelis were to come to terms. Now, it seems, the chilling formula is "peace or war". And no one doubts where a new round of violence will start: southern Lebanon.

A report in the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* yesterday that the new Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has secretly met a Syrian "envoy" in Jerusalem to discuss withdrawing from Lebanon, has only added fuel to the fire. The Israelis have publicly — and the Syrians privately — denied that any such meeting took place; and, given Syrian president Assad's refusal to conduct secret talks with Israel, little credence was attached to the report. But the Syrians can identify a consistent Israeli tactic: to offer a peace — unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, thus isolating Hizbollah — which is unacceptable, and then to blame Syria when it refuses to deviate from the original terms of a solution to the Middle East conflict.

Reports of secret talks in Jerusalem threaten the Middle East peace process, reports Robert Fisk

President Hrawi of Lebanon, whose government is controlled by Syria, has already refused to accept a unilateral Israeli withdrawal, not least because Israel is demanding that 22,000 Syrian troops be withdrawn from Lebanon as part of the deal.

Israel knows Syria will not pull its forces out of Lebanon on these terms (so the Arabs suspect); the Lebanon initiative is an excuse to heap further blame on Damascus and make way for a conflict with Syria or its allies on Lebanese soil.

In five days' time, ceasefire officials from the United States, Israel, Syria, France and Lebanon are to pay their first visit to the south of Lebanon. The UN, who were not party to the Israeli-Hizbollah truce, will host representatives of the five powers on the Israeli-Lebanese frontier. But none of the officials has the slightest idea how the ceasefire will be monitored.

More than 170 civilians were killed by the Israelis in April when the Syrian-supported Hizbollah militia fired rockets into Israel after a Lebanese boy was killed by a bomb in southern Lebanon. After Israeli artillerymen massacred more than 100 Lebanese refugees under the UN's protection, the five

powers announced they would set up a committee to control the fighting in southern Lebanon. At the UN base at Naqoura, the old force commander's conference room, large enough for 45 people and equipped with two telephones and a solitary map of southern Lebanon, has been set aside for



Hrawi: Controlled by Syria

the committee, although the Lebanese are themselves deeply sceptical of its purpose.

In the meantime, Israeli-Syrian relations have worsened sharply. Mr Netanyahu, who has abandoned the negotiations of peace and recognition for Israel in return for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land, has now said that only full-scale ne-

gotiations on Lebanon can avoid "uncontrollable" military escalation. General Hikmat Chehab, the Syrian army chief of staff, has meanwhile said Syria will accept nothing less than "land for peace", and that the "war option" remains open to Syria if the "peace process" fails.

As the Lebanese know all too well, the conflict between Israel and the Syrians is fought out in south Lebanon where the Hizbollah, funded by Iran but encouraged by Syria, continue to assault Israel's occupation troops. Under the terms of the April truce — in effect a "rules of war" agreement rather than a ceasefire — Israeli troops and Hizbollah guerrillas may continue to kill each other inside Lebanon provided they do not shoot into civilian locations, and provided that Hizbollah does not fire Katyusha rockets over the border into Israel. Both sides also undertook not to launch military attacks from civilian areas or from industrial or electrical installations.

Unfortunately, whereas the Israelis want the agreement to disarm the Hizbollah — which would make their occupation of southern Lebanon less bloody — the Syrians (and the Hizbollah themselves) see the com-

mittee as legitimising the Hizbollah "resistance" movement. Israelis and Arabs on the committee thus wish to work in precisely opposite directions.

"Just look at the detail," one Lebanese officer commented wearily. "If the Hizbollah kill two Israeli soldiers and then go home to their village, the Israelis are going to want to shell the village. So what are the Hizbollah expected to do? Stand in a field and wait to be hit by a helicopter gunship? And if the Israelis bomb a Hizbollah position, does this mean the pilot can't fly home to Haifa, that he has to land in a field in southern Lebanon? It's ridiculous."

The UN will make no official comment on the work of the ceasefire committee but they are known to be concerned at the possibility of too close a co-operation with the five powers. Nor is it difficult to see why. If UN battalions are asked to give military information about Hizbollah movements to the committee — information to be made available to Israeli delegates — then UN troops' neutrality will be challenged. Equally, UN information on Israeli military positions will have to be made available to the Syrians and Lebanese — and Israel is unlikely to believe that this will not then find its way to the Hizbollah.

All in all, a bleak prospect for southern Lebanon.



Flag bearer: Saeed Ahmed at the Olympic opening ceremony

Photograph: Reuters

Weightlifter defects from 'concentration camp' hell of Iraq

PHIL DAVISON
Atlanta

The Iraqi weightlifter who carried his country's flag at the Olympics opening ceremony yesterday, saying "I want to escape the hell of Iraq, Saddam and his sons have turned Iraq into a concentration camp."

Saeed Ahmed, 29, from the southern city of Basra, is seeking asylum in the United States. He said: "I have seen with my own eyes [Saddam's] cousin, Ali Majid, shoot innocent civilians."

Mr Ahmed did not say whether or not he was a Shia Muslim, a majority in the Basra area where Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, a Sunni Muslim, has violently put down several uprisings in recent years.

The athlete said he tricked Iraqi intelligence officers, ac-

credited as team officials but acting as "minders", before a team trip to Atlanta's zoo on Wednesday. "I told them I had to go back to my room to change clothes. Then I made a run for it from the Olympic village," he said.

He said he had been helped by two members of a local anti-Saddam group, one of them reportedly a Briton, who had first approached him with a message offering to assist him.

One of them, Omar Mohamed, a student at a technical college in Atlanta, said he had posed as an Argentine athlete last week, approached Mr Ahmed in the Olympic village where the athletes are staying, and slipped him a letter in Arabic offering to help him defect.

Mr Ahmed later sprinted from the Olympic village to a nearby petrol station where Mr Mohamed and Francis

Brooke, reportedly a Londoner now resident in the US, were waiting in a car. "He was running, sweating. He was very afraid and nervous," Mr Mohamed said later.

Making detours in case Iraqi intelligence officers followed them, the two men drove Mr Ahmed to a "safe house" outside Atlanta and introduced him to a lawyer.

Thomas Fischer, a spokesman for the local offices of the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service, said last night that the athlete had not yet formally applied for asylum.

An "associate" of Mr Ahmed had contacted the immigration service on his behalf and the athlete was likely to be interviewed this week, he said.

Mr Ahmed finished 23rd of 28 competitors in the 99kg class of the weightlifting event.

Palestinian anger at death of activist after jail beating

STEPHANIE NOLEN
Jerusalem

A crowd of 7,000 jammed a hillside cemetery in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday for the funeral of Mahmud Jamayyal, who died after being tortured by Palestinian police.

Jamayyal was "one of our own", one mourner said, and his funeral was a bitter mark on the road to increasing anger at the Palestinian Authority (PA), welcomed only seven months ago.

Jamayyal, 27, was declared brain dead on Monday after being taken to hospital from prison in Nabulus. His lawyer said he had serious burns, lacerations and had been savagely beaten. The hospital said he had suffered massive internal bleeding and was kept alive by respiration until yesterday.

Haj Ismail, commander of the PA security forces in the West Bank, went to Jamayyal's family home to return his body. Jamayyal's father refused to accept it until his other son, Muayyed, who has been held for seven months without charge, was released. As a huge crowd gathered, the police re-

and the family moved to bury Mahmud.

Thousands followed the procession to the cemetery, some chanting the names of the nine other young men who have been killed under interrogation by the Palestinian police since they were first deployed in Gaza and parts of the West Bank two years ago. Police agreed to stay away.

Nabulus observed a commercial strike yesterday. The city was a centre of resistance to Israeli occupation and has had a stormy relationship with the PA since it took over last December. Hostility reached a peak in March when police raided the An-Najah university and arrested more than 100 students.

Those arrests were part of a crackdown on Islamist militants following a wave of suicide bombings in Israel. While Israel and America demanded the PA crush Hamas, many who wound up in jail were merely observant Muslims, caught in the wrong place at the wrong time by a police force desperate to show it was doing something.

At least 1,000 people are still being held in Palestinian prisons, without charge. Thirty

nine prisoners in Juncid prison in Nabulus are on the 12th day of a hunger strike. The Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre says it has "dozens and dozens" of documented reports of torture.

Jamayyal, however, was not a Hamas supporter. He was a member of the Fatah Hawks, the militant branch of Yasser Arafat's dominant political faction, and was a popular leader during the Intifada rebellion.

Days after taking over Nabulus, the Palestinian police went after the Fatah Hawks. Jamayyal was detained less than a month after the police arrived. His family only learned of his whereabouts when a nurse recognised her patient.

The rising anger in the West Bank and Gaza is matched only by increasing fear. "The PA took the free hand it was given by Israel and America to crack down on Hamas and they did that, and they used all the torture skills the Israelis taught them... now they're turning everything they learned against their own people, determined to wipe out every shred of opposition," said one human rights activist.

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CRISIS IN INDONESIA

Angry demands for union leader's release

JOHN CARLIN
Washington
BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor
RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Jakarta

International human rights groups have reacted angrily to the crackdown in Indonesia, calling for the release of political prisoners and an end to arms sales.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has written to President Suharto condemning the detention of Mubtahir Pakpahan, the country's most prominent independent

union leader, accused by the government of helping to mastermind the pro-democracy rioting and charged with "subversion". Mr Pakpahan is being held under the Anti-Subversion Act, which outlaws anyone "disseminating feelings of hostility or arousing disension, conflict, disorder, disturbances or anxiety" or "disturbing ... industry, production, distribution, commerce or transport". The maximum penalty for those convicted is death by firing squad, and the average sentence is 10 years imprisonment. Under the Act, suspects can be held indefinitely without trial.

According to Amnesty International, "the exceptional powers granted to the military and the prosecution under this law, and the heavy restrictions it imposes on detainees' rights, make serious human rights violations almost inevitable". In 1993, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights urged the repeal of the law, and until this week its use was becoming more rare.

Mr Pakpahan's arrest warrant said that he was being questioned as part of an investigation into Budiman Sudjatmiko, the leader of the People's Democratic Party (PRD) which is

accused by the government of fomenting the weekend riots as part of an effort to overthrow the government.

The ICFTU issued a statement condemning the "harassment and intimidation of Pakpahan for carrying out his legitimate trade union activities". Bill Jordan, former president of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union in Britain and now general secretary of the ICFTU, told Mr Suharto that unions around the world were "extremely concerned" about the prisoner's mental and physical safety.

Mr Jordan reminded the In-

donesian President that Mr Pakpahan had been subjected over several years to detention, intimidation and harassment for carrying out legitimate trade union activities. The actions of the Indonesian government were in violation of internationally established conventions on human and trade union rights as endorsed by the UN's International Labour Organisation to which Indonesia is a signatory, Mr Jordan said.

Confederation representatives were dispatched to Indonesia in 1994 after the union leader was jailed for four years, later extended to five, for alleged

subversion. He was released after nine months following international pressure.

A spokesman for the American embassy in Jakarta said: "We continue to be deeply concerned about the apparent violation of basic rights of freedom of peaceable assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of association, respect for rule of law and the democratic process, and call on the Indonesian government to ensure that all those arrested and detained, including Mubtahir Pakpahan, are given due process." But US human rights groups are calling on the government to end all weapons

sales to the Suharto regime. Washington did go some way down that road last week when it announced a ban on the sale of armoured personnel carriers and crowd control equipment.

"This new ban on armoured vehicles sets an important precedent," said Charles Scheimer of the East Timor Action Network, which monitors human rights in Indonesia. "It represents an acceptance on the part of the State Department of the principle that withholding weapons sales can advance human rights. This principle should be taken to its logical conclusion by banning all

weapons exports to Indonesia." Human rights groups believe that Washington will refrain from taking tough action against Indonesia for fear of jeopardising US business interests there. The *New York Times* said in an editorial yesterday: "The United States, which has been quicker to see Indonesia as an emerging market than an emerging democracy, must use its considerable influence to discourage reflexive repression and encourage timely change." There was more than \$40bn of foreign investment in Indonesia last year. *Leading article, page 13*

Judge's 'toothache' thwarts opposition court challenge

Move to highlight government manipulation fails, writes Richard Lloyd Parry in Jakarta

It was never going to be more than an outside chance, but no one expected it would end in such an anti-climax. Yesterday, a legal challenge to the political dispute which provoked riots in Jakarta last weekend was frustrated after one of the judges went down with an alleged toothache.

The Jakarta district court was scheduled to hear a case brought by the opposition politician, Megawati Sukarnoputri, who claims that she was illegally deposed as elected chair of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) at a government sponsored congress in June. Ms Megawati's supporters occupied the PDI headquarters in central Jakarta and after police evicted them in a violent raid last Saturday there were riots which left at least four dead and hundreds arrested or injured.

Yesterday, lawyers acting for Ms Megawati demanded her restoration as party leader, and claimed damages from the Interior Minister, Yogie Memet, the commander of the armed forces, General Feisal Tanjung, the national police chief, and Suryadi, the PDI politician who replaced her. But the hearing was adjourned for three weeks after the chairman of the three-judge panel submitted a sick note from his dentist.

A crowd of about 300 Megawati supporters jeered as the announcement was relayed through loudspeakers to the street outside the court. Traffic was blocked as the chanting crowd began to march down the



Defiant: Megawati Sukarnoputri's lawyer, Robert Tambunan, outside court yesterday

busy street in northern Jakarta which was quickly blocked off by police and soldiers armed with automatic rifles. Armed soldiers had been positioned on buildings overlooking the court, but since the army announced on Tuesday that it would shoot troublemakers on sight there have been no more violent demonstrations in Jakarta. A piece of wood was dropped from a building on an armoured car, and one man was dragged away by plain clothes security agents, but the demonstration was otherwise peaceful and broke up after an hour.

Ms Megawati's supporters are under no illusions about their chances of winning the case, which intended only to draw attention to the government's manipulation of the opposition. The Indonesian judiciary is notoriously reluctant to find against the government. Earlier this year, a senior judge

who blew the whistle on a court bribery scandal came under pressure from his own Chief Justice to step down.

"We filed the case because we hoped that while it was pending the government wouldn't have the nerve to take over the headquarters," said Lubut Pangaribuan, a lawyer for the PDI. "We were wrong, and this case won't in itself solve the problems of the PDI. But it's a means of opposing the government, and at this rate it might be three years or more until it's completely finished. My guess would be that the judge has nothing wrong with his health. He was quoted in the paper yesterday, and there was no mention of dentists then."

Opposition politicians and foreign diplomats have been surprised by the crudeness of the tactics adopted by the government of President Suharto who, after 30 years of unchallenged

rule, is increasingly suspected of losing his touch. That the ousting of Ms Megawati should lead to riots in the capital is a grave embarrassment to the government and there are veiled signs of disgruntlement among members of the political and military establishment. Yesterday the speaker of the House of Representatives and confidant of the President named Wahono, was quoted in the *Jakarta Post* warning that: "We have to be able to accommodate the wishes of the people through constitutional means."

Blame for last weekend demonstrations is officially being placed on the People's Democratic Party (PRD), which is accused of plotting to overthrow the government. But "red peril" scares and shoot-on-sight directives are seen by critics as a crude method of dealing with dissent among an increasingly sophisticated and restive population.



Gun law: Marines guard the presidential palace yesterday as demonstrators approach

Photographs: AFP

Australia tries to look the other way

ROBERT MILLIKEN
Sydney

Indonesia's crackdown on political dissidents has exposed flaws in Australia's attempt to appease its closest neighbour. Australia's response to the crisis in Jakarta, where soldiers have been ordered to shoot rioters on sight, has been one of the weakest of any Western country.

While the United States has called on Indonesia to protect democratic rights, Alexander Downer, Australia's Foreign Minister, said only that he was "concerned" about the unrest and hoped it would "settle down very quickly".

He refused to criticise the military regime's use of force to attack the Jakarta headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party. "Well, we don't conduct our affairs in Australia in the same way," he said.

Policy-makers in Canberra are anxiously watching events unfold in Jakarta, knowing that Australia risks being embarrassed over its failure to condemn the Suharto government's violation of human rights, while being quick to speak up over abuses in countries that are further away, such as Burma.

Australia's contorted policy reflects its problems in trying to balancing its strategic interests as a democratic country of 18 million people, most of European descent, living next door

to the world's fifth-most populous country and the most populous Islamic state. In an attempt to dispel traditional Australian fears of an "invasion from the north", Canberra's policy-makers have gone out of their way to turn a country once seen as an enemy into a friend. Indonesia is now Australia's twelfth-largest trading partner and its second-biggest market in South-East Asia.

The previous Labour government of Paul Keating made Indonesia of primary importance, as it focussed Australia's foreign relations towards Asia. Protests in Australia over human rights abuses in East Timor, the former Portuguese colony that Indonesia has

occupied since 1975, were brushed aside. In its last months in office Mr Keating's government concluded a controversial security treaty with Indonesia amid some secrecy.

Since it succeeded Labour five months ago, the Liberal-National government of John Howard has fallen into line with its predecessor over Indonesia. Mr Howard plans to make Jakarta the destination of his first overseas visit as Prime Minister.

Yet the longer that instability lingers in Jakarta, the more the Australian government risks angering public opinion. Australian newspapers have strongly criticised President Suharto's handling of the crisis and have

called for a rethink of policy towards Indonesia.

James Dunn, a former Australian intelligence officer and consul in Portuguese Timor at the time of Indonesia's invasion, said the crackdown showed that Canberra had been unwise to sign a security treaty with Jakarta. "A treaty always assumes common political standards or commitments," he said.

Even before this week's riots, relations had become strained over Canberra's appointment last month of Miles Kupa as new ambassador to Indonesia. Jakarta refused to accept Mr Kupa after it was revealed he had criticised the alleged corruption of the Suharto family.

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Bosnia: The US fears Muslim-Croat federation is in danger of falling apart over Mostar poll

Clinton urges Croats to end election boycott

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

President Bill Clinton is expected to tell Croatia's leaders today that they must help abolish a separatist Croat mini-state in Bosnia and stop the Croat boycott of the municipal council in the divided city of Mostar.

The Clinton administration has summoned Croatia's President, Franjo Tudjman, and his foreign and defence ministers to Washington to spell out that Croatia will pay a price if it continues to undermine key provisions of last year's Dayton peace settlement for Bosnia.

"We've already told the Croats we're not going to let them get away with this boycott, that their behaviour in Bosnia will shape their future ties with the West, on whom they must rely for economic development," a senior US official said. "We've told Tudjman that if the [Muslim-Croat] federation falls apart and he is the reason, if he makes any attempt to annex part of Bosnia, Croatia will be an international pariah."

US negotiators brokered a deal on Wednesday under which Bosnian Croat leaders committed themselves to abolish once and for all their state of Herzeg-Bosnia. The rogue entity, a Croat mirror image of the Bosnian Serb republic, should have been dissolved under the Dayton terms, but it has survived with thinly-disguised support from Mr Tudjman.

Since even the most solemn promises often turn out to mean nothing in former Yugoslavia, US officials suspect that the Bosnian Croats will not

honour their latest commitment unless Mr Tudjman comes under pressure to bring them into line.

Croat nationalists established Herzeg-Bosnia in 1992, and since then the territory has been little more than an appendage of Croatia. It uses the Croatian flag and currency, and its ruling party is a satellite of Mr Tudjman's Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ).



Under the deal brokered by John Kornblum, the US mediator, Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat leaders have until 8 August to set up power-sharing institutions for the Muslim-Croat federation, which occupies 51 per cent of Bosnia.

These institutions, designed to prevent a three-way partition of Bosnia into Muslim, Croat and Serb areas, are to start operating after Bosnia's first post-war general elections on 14 September.

Despite the apparent progress on abolishing Herzeg-Bosnia, US negotiators are finding it difficult to extract a pledge from Mr Tudjman and his Bosnian Croat clients to end the division of Mostar.

The city is split into a Muslim-held eastern sector and a western

sector that US and European officials say is under the control of Croat nationalists, war profiteers and gangsters.

The Bosnian Croats, who regard Mostar as the capital of Herzeg-Bosnia, narrowly lost municipal elections to their Muslim rivals on 30 June. They have refused to recognise the results and take up their seats in the city council, thereby perpetuating Mostar's division and keeping alive their hopes of maintaining a distinct Croat political unit in Bosnia.

US officials discussed the Mostar crisis with Mr Tudjman in Zagreb on Wednesday and found him in an uncompromising mood. However, he is likely to be more conciliatory with Mr Clinton as he attaches great importance to the US-Croatian relationship.

The EU has administered Mostar since 1994 but has made no progress towards ending its division. The present administrator, Sir Martin Garrod, has told the Bosnian Croats that the EU will pull out on Sunday unless they join the city council, but they greeted his warning with scorn.

Western governments regard it as essential that the Croats recognise the Mostar election results and end their council boycott if next month's all-Bosnian elections are to look credible.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government contends that the polls will not be free and fair because both Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats are hostile to the central purpose of the elections. That is to uphold the principle that Bosnia is a single state, even if split into Muslim-Croat and Serb zones.



Man and machine: Two Taiwanese motorcyclists battle against the flooded streets of Taipei after Typhoon Herb swept through the island yesterday, leaving three dead, three missing and injuring nearly 200
Photograph: Simon Kwong/Reuters

Jewish cemetery attack linked to right

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

The desecration of the Jewish cemetery at Carpentras, an event that scarred the national psyche and did untold damage to France's image abroad, may be close to resolution after an investigation lasting more than six years.

The news that four men had been arrested, that two had confessed and that all four were believed to have links with a far-right movement, was greeted across France yesterday with a collective sigh of relief.

Jean-Claude Andreux, the mayor of Carpentras – a rundown town set in glorious Provençal countryside – hoped it would now be able to "recover its honour". He has seen the town, whose Jewish communi-

ty dates from when the Popes of Avignon accorded Jews special protection, become a pariah. Investment has passed it by, as though outsiders feared its malign associations. All development, repairs and business give the impression of having been frozen for six years.

On 10 May 1990, France awoke to reports that one of the country's oldest Jewish cemeteries had been despoiled. More than 30 tombstones had been smashed. The body of 81-year-old Felix Geron, buried two weeks before, had been exhumed, impaled on an umbrella, and left with a star of David on his stomach.

The immediate suspects were local members of the National Front, which is strong in South-eastern France. In Carpentras, with its established Jewish pop-

ulation, a noticeable number of north African immigrants and an economy not benefiting from the fashion for all things Provençal, the National Front had a distinct following.

The public outcry was such that the Socialist interior minister, Pierre Joxe, flew down to the scene and delivered an impassioned condemnation of racism and anti-semitism. He named the National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, as – at least indirectly – responsible for what had happened.

Mr Le Pen, who came to deny his members' involvement, said the National Front was being "framed" one month before parliamentary elections.

Three days after the desecration 200,000 people, led by President Mitterrand, filed through Paris in an act of na-

tional contrition. It was the largest street demonstration the capital had seen since the student protests of 1968.

The investigation, however, seemed to run quickly into the sand. Two groups of skinheads and a group of local girls were detained for questioning and released. A year ago, the newly appointed head of the local judiciary appeared to accept testimony from a girl who said adolescents from well-connected and "untouchable" local families were responsible.

Last October, keen to capitalise on their apparent abolition, 10,000 National Front members converged on Carpentras to insist they had been unjustly vilified. But the new theory still found no culprits. In April, the investigating judge, Sylvie Mottet, who had

been in charge from the outset, was replaced and the case was transferred to Marseille.

Now the theory of far-right involvement has been resurrected, four skinheads in their mid-20s are under arrest, and a fifth man, an army officer in Alsace, is being questioned.

Mainstream politicians are delighted that the far right is back in the dock as the campaign for next year's parliamentary elections gathers pace. The National Front is furious.

Its spokesman described the latest developments as "fantastic in the extreme", and denied that the skinheads' group, the French and European Nationalist Party, was anything to do with them. "You can't exclude manipulation by the secret services or the complicity of local figures," he said.

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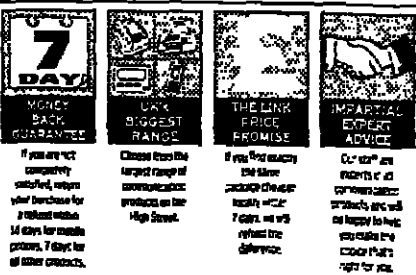
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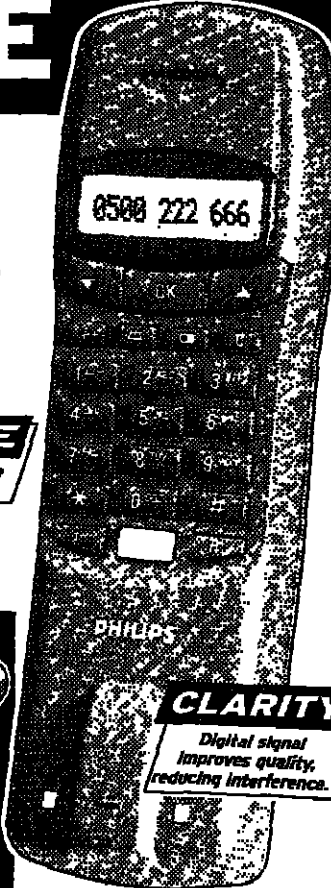
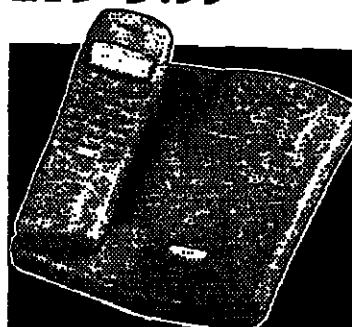
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'Pravda' closes as lost medals trigger row

Moscow — The newspaper *Pravda*, for decades the mouthpiece of the Soviet Communist Party and still popular with leftist opponents of President Boris Yeltsin, has been closed down indefinitely after a row between its Russian editor and its Greek financial backers.

Meanwhile, some of the staff are bringing out a tabloid version of *Pravda*, but it is nothing like the *Sun* or the *Daily Mirror* and certainly there are no page 3 girls. It is just a single sheet of paper folded into a small square to make reading easy for commuters on the packed Moscow metro.

The row between the editor, Alexander Ilyin, and Theodoros Giannikos, two Greek brothers who have kept the newspaper afloat since the collapse of the Soviet Union, was ostensibly over three valuable medals which were misplaced. In Soviet times not only loyal citizens, but also organisations were given medals and *Pravda* was the proud owner of three Orders of Lenin which it printed on its masthead as symbols of its "history and service to society".

Earlier this month, Mr Ilyin had a nostalgic urge to look at the medals themselves and went to the safe where they were

Newspaper editor and owners have fallen out, reports Helen Womack

kept, only to find that the combination had been changed and he could not open it. He called the police.

The Giannikos brothers, directors of *Pravda International* which has published the paper since 1992, turned up and were denied access to the building. Later it turned out that the medals, which collectors will pay up to \$1,000 apiece for, had been moved to the Greeks' safe.

In the ensuing row, charges of drunkenness were made. "Our journalists seem to like partying too much," Theodoros Giannikos was quoted by the *Moscow Times* as saying. "They think they can do no work and still get a salary."

"There are violations of discipline, but do foreign journalists only drink tea?" Mr Ilyin retorted. "Our newspaper is like any other. Maybe we are not the most organised in this respect. But when you work for a newspaper that has been falling apart for years and your salary is just enough for a bottle of vodka, what else are you going to do?"

The deeper reason behind the

row was a disagreement over editorial policy. *Pravda*, founded by Lenin and whose name means "the truth" in Russian, continued to take a fairly orthodox Communist line, but its new owners wanted to make it more centrist to raise circulation, which has dropped from 13 million in Soviet times to 200,000.

The tabloid, called *Pravda 5* and being produced by journalists who had experience on the livelier weekend section, is less propagandistic than the old paper, which Kremlinologists used to comb for clues to official policy, and closer to a newspaper in the Western sense.

For example, the main story in the edition for 31 July was headlined: "Government, stand-

ing itself on crutches, cannot help our invalids" and underneath was a neutral report on the attempt of G7 countries to combat terrorism. This was a far cry from the former hostile reporting of foreign affairs when the United States, for example, was referred to as "Uncle Sam" and Western leaders were portrayed in cartoons as fat capitalists loaded down with sacks of money.

The Greek owners are hoping that after the summer holidays *Pravda* staff will vote out Mr Ilyin and elect a new editor to run the tabloid on a permanent basis. But Mr Ilyin's secretary said yesterday he still regarded himself as the editor. The Communist leader, Genady Zyuganov, said he would find money for *Pravda* as it had backed him during his election fight with Boris Yeltsin. So by autumn, Russia may well have two versions of "the truth".



Soviet mouthpiece: Soldiers reading of Gorbachev's victory in *Pravda*, 16 March 1990 Photograph: Popperfoto/Reuters

Mystery red roses mark Minden deaths

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

Yesterday morning six red roses arrived anonymously at the British consulate general in Chicago accompanied by an envelope marked "In Memoriam". It came as no surprise to the consulate staff for the ritual has been repeated every 1 August for the last 30 years. Yet the identity of the sender remains a mystery. Under the words "In Memoriam" yesterday's envelope read, as ever:

*Minden Day
1 August 1759
The Suffolk Regiment
Lancashire Fusiliers
Royal Welch Fusiliers
King's Own Scottish Borderers
Royal Hampshire Regiment
Yorkshire Light Infantry*

A card inside bore the customary message: "They advanced through rose gardens to the battleground and decorated their tricorn hats and grenadier caps with the emblem of England. These regiments celebrate Minden's Day still, and all wear roses in their caps on this anniversary in memory of their ancestors." It is true that sol-

diers of these regiments do wear roses on their caps every year on 1 August in commemoration of the Battle of Minden of 1759, where the heroism of the six above-mentioned British regiments contributed to the defeat of the French army during the Seven Years War.

As to the identity of the sender, not even the florists who deliver the roses know who it is. They have always received their payment in cash together with the enclosed card, which is always typed exactly the same way, always employing the same typewriter.

Twice in the past the envelope has included a fictitious address, 1759 Albion. Staff at the British consulate assume that he — or she — either served in one of the regiments or has an ancestor who fell at Minden.

They speculate that the sender might be dead, that the roses are sent by a lawyer in execution of a will. Barring a detective investigation, it seems unlikely that consulate staff will ever be able to acknowledge the donor's poignant gesture in person.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Federal agents have searched a rural cabin where the Olympic bomb suspect Richard Jewell once stayed, as well as his city apartment, the FBI said yesterday.

An FBI spokeswoman said the search of the cabin in north-east Georgia was carried out on Wednesday, when agents also scoured the Atlanta apartment of Mr Jewell, 33, a security guard at the Olympic Park where the bomb exploded early on Saturday. He has not been charged or arrested over the attack. *Reuters - Atlanta*

Chechens greeted reports that the leader of their 1991 independence movement had risen from the dead with a curious lack of interest. Russian state television said on Wednesday that Mr Dudayev, who was reported to have been killed in a Russian rocket attack on 20 April, had not died and would return to Chechnya today. *Reuters - Moscow*

The French president paid a flying visit to Sheikh Zayed, the elderly leader of the United Arab Emirates, at one of his several homes in the French Alps. Jacques Chirac was thought to be trying to seal agreement on orders for a \$1bn (£650m) satellite system and a \$6bn fleet of fighter planes. France is in hot competition with US firms for both deals. *Mary Dejevsky - Paris*

Lex van Weren, the "trumpeter of Auschwitz," has died at the age of 76. The Dutch musician survived the Nazi death camp by playing in a band that performed during executions of fellow inmates. His experience was later recorded in a television documentary and a biography, *Trumpeter of Auschwitz*. *AP - Amsterdam*

The wife of top International Olympics Committee member Dick Pound has been charged with disorderly conduct and battery after allegedly knocking a woman police officer in the groin. Julie Pound, 56, of Quebec, was briefly detained and later released by police. She faces a court hearing on 26 August. Mr and Mrs Pound were crossing a road in Atlanta early on Wednesday when the incident occurred. *Phil Davison - Atlanta*

A teenage Filipina maid returned home to a state welcome, movie offers and lumps of money after being saved from execution in the United Arab Emirates for killing her employer. But a "stress debriefing" session with psychologists was also in store for Sarah Balabagan to ease her trauma, officials said. *Reuters - Manila*

Two Swedish cats caused \$45,000 worth of damage after flooding their owner's house whilst locked up in the bathroom. Their owner, Roger Sjöberg, said he had come home to find the house flooded and two frightened cats sitting on the shower taps. *Reuters - Stockholm*

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obituaries/gazette

Ivan Lalic

Ivan Lalic was one of the finest European poets of his time. Abundantly recognised in his native Yugoslavia by the award of the most prestigious literary prizes, he was also admired abroad: his poems have appeared in book-length editions in six languages (English, French, Italian, Polish, Hungarian and Macedonian), and individual poems have appeared in more than 20 languages.

He was exceptionally well served by his main English translator, Francis R. Jones, and, with translations published also in Ireland and the United States, there were seven volumes in English alone. *The Passionate Measure* (1989) was awarded the European Poetry Translation Prize. The most recent volume, *A Rusty Needle* (1996), a Poetry Book Society Recommended Translation, contains Lalic's own definitive selection of his early verse and two new cycles which together offer an eloquent testimony of Lalic's central themes.

Lalic lived through harsh times: born in 1931, as a child he experienced the trauma of seeing many of his school-friends perish in an air-raid, and he died at a time of violent darkness in his native land. All his work is marked by the knowledge of sudden, brutal death and the profound sense of responsibility entailed by survival: a duty to remember, to bear witness and to face the crucial questions of human existence.

Living where he did, in the troubled Balkans, Lalic brought a wide frame of reference to his knowledge of personal suffering: as may be seen in the two last cycles in *A Rusty Needle*, "Dubrovnik" and "Byzantium". These two cities, and the civilisation they represent, embody the two main poles of the



Lalic: arresting imagery

Mediterranean heritage of the central Balkans.

Lalic, who lived in both Zagreb and Belgrade, had a beloved Croatian wife, Branka, and spent the summers with his family in the Istrian town of Rovinj, felt the pull of both poles and saw himself as belonging above all to a Mediterranean tradition that included Ancient Greece and the fine Renaissance achievements of the city state of Dubrovnik.

This awareness reinforced the central place in his work of memory: fragile in the face of the collapse of civilisations, but all we have. Memory allows the poet to recreate brief instants of personal joy as well as to conjure up a sense of the distant past. It allows each of us, as individuals condemned to solitude, to connect with a shared inheritance and feel, for a moment, part of a larger whole.

While Lalic's work is shaped by this profoundly serious endeavour, it is neither solemn nor dry. On the contrary, it crackles with brilliant, arresting imagery forged by the heat of concentrated thought and, above all, it breathes with compassion and humanity. The title of one of his major

collections, *The Passionate Measure*, offers an adequate definition of Lalic's tone: poised, balanced, meticulously judged, these poems owe their existence to love, a word used with unconscious frequency in Lalic's work as the impetus for all achievements of value, from the intimate bonds of family to the great structures of past civilisations.

Like all enduring poetry, Lalic's work is a celebration of the delicate power of language. It is typical of the brutal sectarian chaos currently engulfing his native land that language itself should have become a victim: the language Lalic wrote, previously known as Serbo-Croat, no longer officially exists; it too has broken up into its component parts, Serbian, Croatian and, now, Bosnian. Cynically abused to distort realities on all sides of the conflict, language is being used by politicians to deny the shared heritage to which Lalic's poetry bears witness. At such a time, its searching honesty shines with a particular healing intensity.

The sudden death of Ivan Lalic, who was expected in Britain for a reading tour in the autumn, is a cruel blow for his wife and surviving younger son, and for all those for whom his work was, and will remain, a source of inner strength.

Also a city, sandstone on the beach, the rising of the wave and the rustle of absurdity. Lacing its edge, as it passionately craves our marks. Who may compete with manuscript, this book which empties. Flies through with fingers of flame? ("Lament of the Cimmerian" from *A Rusty Needle*)

Celia Hawkesworth

Ivan Lalic, poet, born Belgrade 1931; married (one son, and one deceased); died Belgrade 27 July 1996.

Sir Robert Le Masurier

Robert Le Masurier was one of the youngest holders of Jersey's highest office, that of Bailiff.

He became Bailiff of Jersey in 1962 just a few months after being appointed Deputy Bailiff, on the untimely death of his predecessor, Cecil Harrison. The post, which is a Crown appointment, demands skill and diplomacy; the holder is not only the civic head of the island's population but also presides over the parliament, the States of Jersey, and over its Royal Court.

Le Masurier was a popular Bailiff, praised for the clarity of his Court judgments. He was

known for his sense of humour and his strong love of the sea.

The son of a solicitor, he was born in 1913 and educated at Victoria College, Jersey, and Pembroke College, Oxford. He began his legal career in 1938 as an advocate of the Royal Court, but this was soon interrupted by the Second World War. His wartime naval recollections included an incident that attempted to make use of his local knowledge.

The Naval Intelligence Division planned to land Le Masurier secretly under cover of darkness on Jersey to gain information about the strength of the occupying German forces. The torpedo boat used to bring him to the island was delayed while dropping off men to land in Guernsey, and the impending daylight forced it to return to England with Le Masurier still on board.

He resumed private practice after the war, becoming a Crown officer (Solicitor-General) in 1955. A former colleague at the legal firm of Le Masurier & Giffard, Advocate Peter Giffard, recalls that Le Masurier was "a first-class lawyer". "He was absolutely brilliant. He had a fine legal brain and was very conscientious," says Giffard, emphasising Le Masurier's lack of ostentation.

In Jersey's Royal Court yesterday the Deputy Bailiff, Francis Hamon, paid tribute to Le Masurier. "He made many friends," Hamon said, "and the portrait of him that hangs in this court to mark his retirement in December 1974 captures his delightful sense of humour which always tempered the dignity and justice that he brought to this court."

In his retirement Le Masurier often spoke out on island matters that concerned him, usually through the letters column of the *Jersey Evening Post*. Most recently he opposed plans to build an aquarium in a Green Zone area, and criticised a proposal to allow a casino to be established in the island.

Philip Jeune

Robert Hugh Le Masurier, lawyer, born Jersey 29 December 1913; DSC 1942; Solicitor-General Jersey 1955; Attorney-General 1958; Deputy Bailiff 1962; Bailiff 1962-74; Ki 1966; married 1962 Helen Sheringham (one son, two daughters); died Jersey 30 July 1996.



Le Masurier: diplomacy

Claudette Colbert's wit and poise and that beguilingly worldly-wise charm which she used to such effect as the greatest of the comedienne of the golden age of cinema, was strikingly reflected in her private personality, writes Derek Granger [further to the obituary by Tom Vallance, 1 August].

The soft, husky, low-toned voice, the brightly welcoming candour of expression were alight with the humour and warmth which she brought to that long line of knowing, sophisticated heroines who graced, with such appeal, classic movies like *The Palm Beach Story* and *It Happened One Night*.

With these spirited and lively qualities, she also combined

the solid, down-to-earth pragmatism of the good French housekeeper, with a perfectionist's eye for domestic detail, a practical and deeply knowledgeable sense of how to run a superb kitchen and the kind of fastidious determination which enabled her to produce French heroines from the unlikely soil of a tropical island garden so that she could give her guests a proper Gallic salad.

It was at home in Barbados, where she had mostly lived for the past 30 years, that these robust aspects of her French ancestry came much into their own. Bellerive, the handsome, Georgian plantation house, situated on the Caribbean shore of the Bajan province of St James, was the house she had found with her second hus-

band, Joel Pressman. Unlike so many of the prettily contrived pleasure domes which many had built as their Barbadian holiday homes, Bellerive resembled its owner - a solid, lived-in, comfortable and welcoming house devoid of pretension. With its airy blue and white drawing room, its huge wintered-in veranda, its lush tropical garden and its polished dark wood floors, Bellerive bore the sturdy, authentic air of a rich, colonial past.

It was in this enviable setting that Colbert's guests enjoyed great country-style French cooking (she had taken some of her staff to study cookery in Paris) and were fussed over by devoted female retainers, including the gentle Marie who came specially out of retirement

to help look after her mistress when, in the very last years, Colbert's health began to fail.

A high point in life at Bellerive occurred with the official visit of the President and Nancy Reagan to a group of Caribbean islands of which Barbados was chosen as the base. With the tropic sky now awash with the clatter and whooshing of helicopters, a gunboat guarding the shore and rings of bulging, Brobdignagian security men, Colbert, after driving herself to the ultimate degree of meticulous preparation, emerged as the relaxed and easy hostess of a party which included Lord Bernstein of Granada Television and the right-wing commentator William Buckley and his wife, Patricia.

After the affable Ronald Reagan had gone swimming and told funny stories about the Russians and the First Lady had taken delicately to the sea borne on a lilo, Colbert asserted her rights as hostess by disallowing the President on beach grounds, to sit down for lunch in his wet bathing trunks. The benign, light-hearted afternoon was suddenly broken to encompass a dark moment of history. The President was summoned to take a ship-to-shore call to General Haig, then flying back to Washington after his failed attempt to broker a last peace deal between Britain and Argentina.

Colbert, like all good professionals, had a fine sense of her own worth but no vanity. She had too much basic sanity

ever to think of her long and brilliant achievement as anything other than work well done.

Although she had lived and worked in America for nearly all her life, she clung strongly to her roots in France (she was delighted with her award of the Légion d'Honneur) and she loved coming to England, recalling with much relish her British touring days, nearly 70 years ago, when she opened in the winter of 1928 at the Empire in a wet and windswept Cardiff, playing the sultry Lou in *The Barker*, a long-forgotten drama of itinerant show folk and life in the travelling circus. It is hard to think of Colbert, icon of the cinema's great era of sophistication, sampling the pleasures of matinees and

evenings in Portsmouth and Hull and perhaps it was appropriate that she should return to the Haymarket Theatre in 1984 in a comedy, Frederick Lonsdale's *Aren't We All*, as stylish and time-proof as herself.

All her life she was a staunch Republican and natural Conservative, so she was therefore thrilled when Margaret Thatcher made a visit backstage and invited her to Sunday lunch at Chequers. She was also disconcerted to discover that her own enthusiasm for Britain's prime minister was not universally shared by some of the cast.

Always immaculate, a neat and elegant figure beautifully but unfashionably turned out, she exuded an air of benevolent well-

being which seemed to offer a grateful acknowledgement of her own good fortune. Her image in countless films remains secure but those who knew her will remember a clear-eyed, generous and staunchly companionable friend with a huge fund of spontaneous good nature.



Colbert: basic sanity

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

TATE: On 31 July 1996, at the Morning Clinic, Johannesburg, to Kate (nee Nibbs) and Jim, a daughter, Madeleine Margaret.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephoned to 0171-233 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-233 2012) or faxed to 0171-233 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Mr Edward Bell, chairman and publisher, HarperCollins UK, 47; Mr John Bowls MP, Under-Secretary for Health, 51; Sir Ronald Breifley, company chairman, 59; Mr Derek Enright MP, 61; Mr John Gale, theatrical producer, 67; Sir John Hannan MP, 67; Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, Courtlands and Reuters, 68; Dr George Kimble, geographer, 80; Miss Anne Leachars, television journalist, 43; Mr Sammy Mellor, footballer, 42; Sir Reginald Muriel, surgeon, 80; Lord Murray of Epping Forest, former TUC general secretary, 74; Sir Brian Neill, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 73; Mr Peter O'Toole, actor, 64; Lord Shuttleworth, chairman, National & Provincial Building Society, 48; Mr Richard Simmonds, Chairman, Countryside Commission, 52; Professor Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, mathematician,

69; Miss Rose Tremain, novelist and playwright, 53; Mr Alan Tiffin, former trade union leader, 63; Lord Waddington QC, Governor of Bermuda, 67; Mr Alan Whicker, television broadcaster, 71; Sir Brian Wolfson, former chairman, Wembley plc, 61.

Anniversaries

Births: Samuel Dircksz van Hogstraten, painter, 1627; Gerard Audran, artist and engraver, 1640; Joseph John Gurney, philanthropist, 1788; Nicholas Patrick Stephen Wiseman, Cardinal, first archbishop of Westminster, 1820; John Tyndall, physicist, 1820; Edward Augustus Freeman, historian, 1823; Julius Schulhoff, organist and composer, 1825; Henry Steel Olcott, co-founder of the Theosophical Society, 1832; Eliza Gray, an inventor of the telephone, 1835; Francis Marion

Crawford, novelist, 1854; Ernest Christopher Dawson, poet, 1867; Ethel Mary Dell (Mrs G.T. Savage), novelist, 1881; Sir Arthur Edward Drummond Blair, composer, 1891; Leslie Lincoln Hemson, actor-manager, 1891; Myra Loy (Katerina Myra Williams), actress, 1905; Deaths: King William II (William Rufus), shot in the New Forest 1100; Thomas Gainsborough, painter, 1788; Jacques-Etienne Monigault, balloonist, 1799; Mehemet Ali, Viceroy of Egypt, 1849; "Wild Bill" Hickok (James Butler), western Marshal, shot dead 1876; Marcus Andrew Fiskop Clarke, author, 1881; Enrico Caruso, operatic tenor, 1921; Alexander Graham Bell, an inventor of the telephone, 1922; Warren Gamaliel Harding, 29th US President, 1923; Paul Ludwig Hans Anton von Beneckendorff und von Hindenburg, soldier and statesman, 1934; Louis Blériot, aviator, 1936;

Pietro Mascagni, composer, 1945; Wallace Stevens, poet, 1955; Oliver Hazard Perry La Farge, author, 1963; Fritz Lang, film director, 1976; Carlos Chavez, Mexican composer, 1978. On this day the Quadruple Alliance between Britain, France, Austria and Holland against Spain was concluded in London, 1718; the newly opened Theatre Royal in York staged a performance of *Henry V*, 1744; Napoleon was declared "Consul for life", 1802; the government of India was transferred from the East India Company to the Crown, 1858; British Columbia became a Crown Colony, 1858; the transatlantic cable which was being laid by the Great Eastern snapped and was lost, 1865; death duties were first introduced, 1894; Russian troops invaded East Prussia, 1914; the Potsdam Conference ended, 1945; Iraqi tanks and infantry invaded and occupied Kuwait, 1990. Today is the Feast Day of St Eustachius.

sebius of Vercelli, St Plegmund, archbishop of Canterbury, St Sidwell or Satalovs, St Stephen I, Pope, St Synagrius of Annon and St Theodora and her Three Sons.

Lectures

National Gallery: Steven Adams, "Summer Holidays (I): The Landscape Painter's Summer: Daubigny on Holiday", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Irene Logan, "From Majolica to the Medici patron 1550-1600", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "London as a Major Theme in the Work of Leon Kossoff", 1pm.

Simon Weinstock

A memorial concert for the Hon Sir Simon Weinstock will be held at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on Friday 4 October at 3pm. Ad-

mission will be by ticket only. Those wishing to attend should write to Mrs P. Newton, 1 Stanhope Gate, London W1A 1EH.

Appointments

Mr Vernon Scarborough, to be Ambassador (non-resident) to the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Sir Mark Waller and Sir John Munro, to be Lord Justices of Appeal.

Linacre College

The following fellowships have been awarded by Linacre College, Oxford: Bursary Fellowship: The Right Rev Carolyn Turner, 1997-2000. University of Oxford: G.G. Barber, S. Moorhead, C.W. Newbury. Supervisory Fellowships: Dr E.H. H. Morris, T. Mullin, N.P.L. Junior Research Fellowship: S.D. Kemp.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen visits the Summer Camp of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment at Tidworth, Wiltshire. The Prince of Wales, President of the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, visits a construction project under construction in the town of Epsom, Surrey. The Queen's Colour Squadron moves to the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment of the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. The Queen's Colour Squadron moves to the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 8.35pm. United Synagogue: 0171-307 4000. Federation of Synagogues: 011-202 2240. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-589 1463. Reform Synagogue: 0171-233 2011. Jewish Community Centre: 0171-233 2012. New London Synagogue: 0171-233 2010.

How to help Indonesia? Stop selling it arms

Indonesia is on the edge of big, big trouble. The best thing the world can do now is to nudge it in the right direction, towards democracy and away from repression, cronyism and authoritarianism. Instead, the only sound emanating from the international community is the rustle of contracts.

Over the past week, Indonesia - previously a rock of stability in a very unstable area - has started to look very shaky indeed. Riots at the weekend followed a clampdown on the opposition, and since then there have been reports of arrests, threats to shoot demonstrators and abuses of human rights.

The government of President Suharto, supported by a tough and well armed military, has kept Indonesia in a firm grip for 30 years. The country has regularly attracted the attention of human rights activists, notably for its bloody behaviour in East Timor, the former Portuguese territory which it illegally annexed 20 years ago.

No foreign government, however, has much short-term interest in rocking the Indonesian boat, neither its Asian neighbours nor Australia, nor the West. The torture, killings and suppression of the press were largely overlooked during the Cold War, because Indonesia was a pillar of anti-communism. After all, the current regime was installed in a military putsch, accompanied by a campaign of suppressing the Communist Party which involved

murder on a massive scale. Few governments raised their voices; that was in the mid-1960s, and anti-communism in South-east Asia was a popular cause in Washington and Canberra.

There has been little in the way of coherent government protest following the weekend repression and the subsequent clampdown, either. But this time, the principal arguments against getting too hot under the collar are financial. Indonesia is an up-and-coming economy, with limitless natural resources, 8 per cent growth and about \$40bn of foreign investment last year, everyone wants a slice.

Financial markets are peculiarly bad at assessing political risk. At some point, President Suharto will die, or be replaced, and then the markets will suddenly go wild while the investment houses try to find someone who understands what is going on. Equally, foreign investors will eventually wake up to the reality that undemocratic countries are not, in the long term, safe places to do business.

There is no doubt that everyone has an interest in stability. But it is best assured, in the long run, by repression, large armed forces and restriction of the free press, or by democracy?

This is only partially about morality. Ethics alone would imply that other governments, and international business, should treat Indonesia with some circumspection until it has sorted out

its problems. But practicality, too, should rear its ugly head here.

There are sensible, pragmatic reasons for changing our approach. Indonesia is in the process of transition, as economic and social development creates a middle class that is less and less willing to be pushed around by goons with guns. The corruption, unpredictability of policy and lack of transparency that goes with authoritarianism all hamper trade. Democratisation and liberalisation will be good for Indonesians, and good for business.

The fusion of ethics and pragmatism should also temper British policy

towards Indonesia, in particular as regards the sale of arms. Britain, only one of many vendors, has sold Indonesia aircraft and tanks. The Government says that it has only allowed such highly lethal equipment to be exported after satisfying itself that it will not be used for internal repression. Indeed, the Government claims to have gone to great lengths to establish whether Hawk trainers have been used in East Timor, only to conclude that they have not.

None the less, while Indonesia is in the business of using the army to break up demonstrations, there should be

tighter restrictions on the sale of arms. Indonesia needs more armaments like a drunk needs a bottle of whisky. Britain seems to have been a little more circumspect than other countries about the terms of arms sales so far; it should now go further and ban exports until Indonesia cleans up its act.

Britain has also exported electric shock batons and police vehicles. According to those who sell it, internal security equipment is acceptable because it is non-lethal and protects police forces. Again, these are not good arguments. It does not say much for Britain that one of its main claims to commercial success is the sale of the instruments of torture and repression; they should not be sold to any country which, like Indonesia, is engaged in the vicious suppression of democracy.

These exports, too, should be stopped. Both these measures would be unpopular in the arms industry and in Indonesia. Good; it is time to send a signal to Jakarta. The present unrest is a sign that things could get much, much worse, and the military needs to know that unless it relaxes its iron grip on democracy, there will be no more toys - not from Britain, at any rate. That is good ethics, and good political sense, too. Change will come in Indonesia; when it does, better to have assisted it on its way than to have propped up the rotten old regime. That should have been the lesson of Iran, of Eastern

Europe, of the Philippines and of Argentina.

It is a good time to send a signal. There are legislative elections next year, and the ruling Golkar is likely to see its share of the vote sink. The year after, there are presidential elections, and the ageing President Suharto is apparently aiming at a seventh term. Before then, it is in everyone's interest that the old regime is quietly persuaded to step off the stage and allow a proper democratic contest.

We're all gann to the Toon

Last year's glorious summer did wonders for English tourism, especially in the North-east. Trips to Northumbria went up by a quarter in 1995 compared with the previous year. Its attractions abound, from the translucent coolness of Kielder's water, the tang of smoke-houses on Craster quay, the Roman remains on Hadrian's Wall to the view from the battlements on Holy Island.

But maybe the countryside was not the tourist lure after all. Trips by Brits to congested London rose spectacularly, too, last year. Could it be that all those visitors to Northumbria were actually sampling the urban buzz of Newcastle-upon-Tyne?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gun law: listen to what the people say

Sir: You were right to place Pamela Ross's letter on the front page ("Listen to me", 1 August). I wonder if she has a point when she says that if the tragedy at Dunblane had happened at Westminster more would have been done. I wonder also why those in power in this country still will not listen to what ordinary people say.

Not having lost a child, I cannot begin to experience what Mrs Ross and the other families who lost children at Dunblane must be feeling. All I can do is support what she says. What I do believe is that their instincts are right, as are those of all caring human beings who want to see weapons such as handguns made illegal.

I support also her contention, based on listening to the Cullen inquiry, that there is "no way you can decide on the suitability of someone to own guns". It is simply unnecessary for these weapons to be available to all and sundry for the sake of something called "sport". Why is it sporting to be taught to handle weapons that kill and maim? How many more Dunblanes, Hungerfords, Port Arthur et al will we have to endure before those we elected to make decisions on our behalf, begin to listen to those of us who are not articulate or persuasive enough to combat powerful vested interests?

None of my friends, relatives or neighbours think handguns should be legal, but for whatever reason, not all of us are able to make our voices heard. Please will somebody listen to Mrs Ross before we have to read and watch, in mounting horror, another Dunblane.

STEPHANIE MONCRIEFF
Ipswich, Middlesex

Sir: Forty years ago a fellow student encouraged me to try target shooting. I remain proud to this day that I later shot for my college, and once for my university.

Pamela Ross's argument that because one individual misused the privilege of owning a gun, all target shooters must be punished, is understandable in her grief, but intolerably wrong. Taken to extremes we should stop gardeners buying machetes and axes; housewives from buying large kitchen knives; and motorists using their cars. All have caused unlawful deaths.

Instead, I suggest three actions. First, those wishing to use guns for target shooting should be approved by local councils as well as the police, and applications made by gun club officials.

Second, a distinction should be made between applications for single shot .22 calibre rifle and pistol licences, and more powerful weapons. Justification to hold the latter should be very severe.

Third, we have to do more to help the mentally ill, the modern day lepers in our communities.

RICHARD BALMER
Salford

Sir: In 1988 my ex-husband lost his first wife and son in a horrific car accident. The police officer who broke the news was back within weeks to discuss my husband's application for a shotgun licence, which was duly granted. In the event friends were able to bring pressure to bear to stop him actually acquiring a gun and he never fulfilled his fantasies of revenge, but I had naively assumed that "someone in authority" would see the dreadful state he was in and



Crazy right-wing militia group

not compound it by allowing him easy access to a weapon.

The question is do we want to put temptation in someone's way? The Home Affairs Select Committee considering gun control after Dunblane seems to think we should. This ignores the obvious fact that guns make people in powerless situations feel powerful.

As Pamela Ross pointed out in her open letter, "there is no way you can decide on the suitability of someone to own guns. You can never foresee every circumstance they will find themselves in."

TRACY HART
London SE14

Power of armed forces in Turkey

Sir: Tony Barber ("The Turkish question", 30 July) was right in wanting a democratic and largely secular Turkey, but he produced no evidence of improvements in human rights over the past year. The EU should certainly use its influence more constructively than up to now. The main obstacle is the predominant power of the armed forces, exerted through the National Security Council. Seven years after the break-up of the Soviet Union, an over-large conscript army and inflated defence expenditures cause budget deficits, high inflation and a steadily depreciating currency.

Successive governments, including those of Mrs Ciller, Mr Yilmaz, and very likely Necmettin Erbakan, the new Prime Minister, have colluded with the military establishment. That is why torture of detainees remains a standard practice, why opposition members

and journalists are murdered with impunity, and why pro-Kurdish parties are officially banned.

In addition, some 13 laws forbid the use of the Kurdish language (which is akin to Iranian) in public places, publishing or education. Successive governments have rejected a number of ceasefire offers from the PKK armed insurgents. Martial law has been in force in the south-east for over 10 years and a military solution to the long-standing conflict is the only one on offer.

Against this gloomy background, which Mr Barber barely mentioned, what can we expect of Mr Erbakan and the Refah party?

When I was in Turkey for the general election of December 1995, I was told that Refah mayors in such cities as Diyarbakir and Istanbul had discriminated in favour of their supporters and affiliated organisations.

Will Refah show itself strong enough to reform the armed forces and to negotiate seriously with the democratic and parliamentary leaders of the Kurds? Such negotiations would benefit other ethnic minorities, such as the Laz, and religious groups such as the Alevi, the Sargun and other Christians, orthodox and evangelical. At present, alas, there are few signs of so necessary a change of heart.

LORD HYLTON
Bath

Sir: Tony Barber sets out admirably why the international community is prepared to disregard appalling human rights violations in their

wish "to forge a special European relationship with Turkey" but fails to convey the frequency and serious nature of the abuses.

To write that "most Western governments consider that Turkey's human rights record improved substantially since this time last year" is to ignore the continuing high incidence of torture, "disappearance" and death in custody. Almost every day Amnesty International receives yet more evidence that those held in police custody are still routinely subjected to torture to extract information or to force a confession.

With regard to the hunger strike which was halted at the weekend, Amnesty International has raised the issues of ill-treatment of prisoners and obstruction of their medical treatment with successive governments in Turkey. We have also documented the long history of inhuman treatment of prisoners during transfers between prisons and from prison to court.

To address its broader concerns, Amnesty International is presenting a number of simple, practical and achievable recommendations to the Turkish government.

The Turkish government should publicly express concern about the increase in reports of extrajudicial execution and "disappearance", and should conduct thorough, prompt and impartial investigations into the cases of the scores of people who have "disappeared" in police custody since 1991.

Dr PAUL MANSOUR
Turkey Coordinator
Amnesty International UK
London EC1

Apartheid in Northern Ireland

Sir: In his article about sectarianism "revisiting" Northern Ireland (29 July) Michael Streeter emphasises that there has been some naivety around for the last couple of years in excessive hopes that sectarian divisions had disappeared along with the paramilitary violence.

The reality is that the republican and loyalist paramilitaries were never the cause of the problem. Rather, they were the malignant manifestations of a bitterly divided society. The truth is that despite the ceasefire the divisions have not gone away and Northern Ireland is now in many ways an apartheid society. Our schools, the areas in which we live, the newspapers we read, the sports we play and social and recreational activities are all too often clearly identified either with the Catholic/nationalist or the Protestant/Unionist tradition.

The only way to create a lasting peace in Northern Ireland is to confront the evil of division and to create a mixed and integrated society. This presents a challenge for all political leaders, church leaders and other community representatives to become involved in, not just talking about peace, but in making the difficult but necessary compromises which will be a *sine qua non* for the creation of a real and lasting peace.

Councillor Dr PHILIP J McGARRY
Alliance Party
Belfast

The quest for gold medals

Sir: Thank God for the Olympic Games. If it weren't for them, there would be no publicity given to the fact that our fast-tracking of elite athletes is so awful compared with so many countries.

I have just returned from a trip to Toronto. There, the sports facilities for everybody in the community seem to be of a very high standard. Sport and physical activities are given high status as positive, healthy aspects of life for all age groups and standards. Facilities are excellent and peoples' aspirations to take part in whatever activity they choose are taken seriously. The term "athlete" is not reserved for the chosen few.

The point about "sport" is that it is open to everyone and that anyone can enjoy it at any level. Gold medalists are at the top of a pyramid with many levels; it seems that if we don't have the different levels, it's impossible to have the medals.

SUE LEATHER
Cambridge

Sari party

Sir: Rosie Millard's article, "Shalwar kameez: how will you wear yours?" (27 July), was very interesting. However, Asian clothes are not that new to European women, well not this one. On a trip to London in 1968 I bought my first sari in Charing Cross Road for £5; and wore it to a Christmas party. 'Jemima and Diana started it', I don't think so. CAROL ANN CHEE-LYNCH
London NW7

Support for Labour dissenters

Sir: You printed today three letters from people critical of the recent remarks by Ken Livingstone MP and others about the Labour Party leadership (31 July). There are many of us in the Labour Party who are pleased that Ken Livingstone, Diane Abbott and others have spoken out. The leadership of the party is acting in an autocratic manner and there must be a change of approach before it is too late.

We have seen over recent months numerous examples of abrupt changes of policy by Tony Blair (eg over a referendum on Scottish devolution), actions which disappoint potential supporters of the party (eg Tony Blair's abstention in the Commons on the question of gays in the military) and intolerance of even mildly different views (eg the demotion of Clare Short).

We all want unity in the party, but not at the price of ditching every radical and democratic idea the party has ever stood for.

I well remember the days when some Labour MPs felt forced to speak out against actions taken by Harold Wilson (support for the Americans in Vietnam) and James Callaghan (cuts in public services dictated by the IMF). Is there anyone today who would seriously argue that those MPs should have kept quiet in the interests of party unity?

DAVID WHITE
Croydon

Sir: I am, or was, one of the millions desperate for a Labour government referred to in Paul Richards's letter (31 July).

The treatment of Clare Short, the strong-arm whipping of alternative views, the imposition of conformity, the denigration by rumour of those out of favour of the leadership and the concentration on presentation and PR rather than debate leads me, for one, to begin to doubt what kind of Labour government we will have.

The continued support of the millions has to be retained and the Labour Party acts at its peril if it thinks it can just safely rely on it; even desperation has its limits.

DANIEL JAYNE
Newcastle upon Tyne

King of the Danes

Sir: Just a small, but to Danes very important, correction to your interesting article "The burden of perfection" (23 July), about Bertel Thorvaldsen. King Ferdinand VII would be completely unknown in Denmark, but King Frederik VII, the King of the People, with the motto "The People's Love - my Strength", was probably the most influential and popular of Danish kings, presiding over the establishment of a democratic constitution, as mentioned in your article. He was also a keen amateur archaeologist and is most often pictured out and about visiting the country wearing a red fez and with a long meerschaum pipe.

BIRTHE KING
London N3

Seconds out

Sir: Time has run out for Charles Arthur ("A short history of brief time", 30 July), for a femtosecond is a thousand million millionth of a second and he must be disqualified for being 999 femtoseconds late! The time he talks of is that prolonged passage, the picosecond.

DEREK ROBINSON
Head, Physical Sciences
& Engineering, Science Museum
London SW7

analysis

This building has drawn many admirers – too many, says the owner, who has now banned visitors. What does this tell us about attitudes to architecture?

Where there was once a dismal lean-to shed nailed to the community hall in Chessington, Surrey, there is now a shining building which many consider to be a work of art. Art or not, the new Citizens' Advice Bureau, a cube of seamless lines, bold colours and glorious light, and just a few months old, has become a testament to the personal British failure to appreciate modern architecture.

At least, that's the view of the woman who designed it, Gabriele Bramante, a German-born architect, who fought tooth and nail for every last penny of the £330,000 it took to build. Despite winning accolades

By Rebecca Fowler

from the Civic Trust and the BBC (it was viewers' choice in the architecture section of the recent BBC Design Awards), the Citizens' Advice Bureau says it is tired of visitors coming to look at it and won't allow its entry into a further awards scheme. Bramante feels that the committee of volunteers who run the bureau would have preferred a Portakabin, rather than what, by any standards, is a rather beautiful – and clearly popular – building.

When Bramante asked for judges from the Royal Institute of British Architecture to be given a half-hour viewing for a further round of awards, the committee said enough is enough. The time has come, they insisted, for the work of art to be an advice bureau again, a place for working in and not for looking round.

Architectural students have wandered through the doors in droves, and the curious have dropped in to walk across the York stone floors

and run their hands along the fine sandstone and beech fittings. It has got to the point where one exasperated official snapped at Bramante, saying, "I'm fed up of people telling me how good this building is."

For those who appreciate good new architecture, the Chessington CAB is cause for celebration. Why shouldn't an architect bring some pizzazz to a dull English horizon? "Nothing is too good for ordinary people," said Berthold Lubetkin, the pioneering British Modernist who designed the hugely influential Finsbury Health Centre in central London. (This building, 60 years on, still serves its original purpose and has an enthusiastic staff who, whenever convenient, happily allow a regular flow of visitors to look around.)

Bramante says she has taken Lubetkin's dictum to heart. Clearly, however, sometimes a building can be too good for ordinary people. "They just don't understand what they've got," says Bramante. "They want it to go back to what it was. They wanted a Portakabin, not a building, not beautiful architecture. It's tragic. We assumed they would enjoy this building. It's too good for them. They have no respect for it."

Among Bramante's concerns is the way her client is treating the bureau. "They fitted a brass letter box, when it already had a letter box," she sighs. "They are putting in blinds from John Lewis because they can get a 20 per cent discount, instead of blinds designed for the building, and they have filled it with loose furniture, even though it has specially designed fitted furniture."

It is an old story and one that generations of architects have learnt to tell. Even so, Bramante (this is her first major building) says she is astonished by the treatment meted



'We assumed they would enjoy this building. It's too good for them. They have no respect for it' – Gabriele Bramante, architect

out to modern architecture. "We have enormous talent in this country, but it is no good unless somebody has the courage to give an architect the freedom to express that talent."

Attitudes to modern architecture in Britain have been muddled for many years. The extent of the divide between those whose instinct is to stick with the safety of the past and those who want to move forward was crystallised by the Prince of Wales, the self-appointed guardian of true British architecture. His "carbun-

cle" speech criticising a design for the extension to the National Gallery more than a decade ago summed up the constipated mood of caution in architecture, celebrated by his own Institute for Architecture, in Regent's Park, London, set up to train architects along traditional lines. Since then, however, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has refused to recognise the standing of the institute's qualifications, which means that study with the Prince's favourite gurus and teachers does not

an architect make – at least, not officially. The institute's standing is all the more complicated because over the past year, the Prince of Wales has invited at least two firms of very modern architects – radical, in the case of Branson Coates Architecture – to work with him. Even so, those who hang on to the Prince's coat-tails, while mouthing platitudes in recent months about how it is possible to have a good modern building, prefer all things old and crumbly when expressing their views privately.

Witnessing few commissions coming their way at home, more adventurous British architects claim that our visual culture has long been frozen in the past. Those who have moved with the times are being pushed overseas by an army of nostalgic fundamentalists to countries such as Japan, Spain and Germany, where there is plenty of work and modern architecture is liked as much as traditional design.

They include David Chipperfield, designer of the recently opened boat house at Henley-on-Thames, who receives 80 per cent of his commissions abroad, and who is despairing at the attitudes in Britain. "We seem to take a perverse enjoyment of things not happening," he says, "unlike France or Spain and other European countries. They see their glorious days in front of them, whereas we think our glorious days are behind us. Anything that erodes our Victorian past is somehow destabilising. Whereas Germany wants to build for the future, and is robustly modern, and Spain has recovered from Franco and wants to build a new society, we've wanted to switch off. The deft thing is that cities are being eroded by planning legislation that allows Tesco's and Sainsbury's to go up all over the place, but resists projects like the Cardiff Bay Opera House. They're hitting the good ones instead of the bad ones."

Back in Chessington, the RIBA has been cautious over its role in the saga. Rather than leap to Bramante's defence, it anxiously points out that she is not a fully qualified architect, and it is concerned over claims that there have been practical problems with the building. According to the RIBA, the relationship between the client and the designer of the building, in this case volatile, is also an inte-

gral part of architecture. It is therefore a key aspect of its criteria for judging awards. Chris Palmer, a spokesman, says: "You've got to respect the fact that it's the CAB's building. The idea you can just go along and judge it for an RIBA award as Ms Bramante would like us to do, but without permission, doesn't make sense. You can't send four people in with balconies to have a look and run away. It's their building now."

Clearly a building is never just a work of art, unlike a painting or a sculpture. No painting can be accused of being too hot in summer, as the CAB committee has said of Bramante's design. It also says that private conversations in interview rooms can be overheard. Such things can normally be solved – quickly and without rancour – yet if designers and clients cannot even come together to support a small vision of the future in Surrey, what hope is there for the great adventures in architecture that Britain needs to take it into the next century?

Mark Welling, chairman of the local Citizens' Advice Bureau, says: "The management committee has always said it is delighted with the building. But we have reaffirmed our decision not to go ahead with the award. We have a public service to fulfil, we rely on volunteers, and that is our function. Ms Bramante has never been very good at looking at the needs of the other parties involved."

As the public wanders by and smiles in surprise at a space that had been filled by something out of the ordinary, the small splash of innovation on the Chessington skyline is arguably a public service in its own right. Yet, as the battle continues, it is easy to see why Bramante wonders if she would have been better off building her client a shed instead.

Poetry Competition

£18,000 prize money to be won

The International Library of Poetry, an affiliate of the widely respected US National Library of Poetry, is sponsoring an International Open Amateur Poetry Competition. There will be a new contest each month and each contest will award one Grand Prize of £1,000, plus ten Second Prizes of £50 each. The closing date for entry is 31st August 1996. Another competition begins on 1st September 1996. The competition is open to all and entry is free.

"It's always exciting to discover new talent. We have been sponsoring competitions in the United States for more than ten years now – and it's a special pleasure to be running these events in the UK," stated Howard Ely of The International Library of Poetry. "We're especially interested in receiving poems from new or unpublished poets."

How to Enter

Anyone may enter the competition simply by sending in one original poem, any subject, any style, to:

The International Library of Poetry
Dept. 9185
FREEPOST LON 2229
WHITSTABLE, Kent CT5 3BR

Poems should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address must appear at the top of the page. Entries must be typed or neatly handwritten and will not be returned. All poets who enter will receive a reply along with complete competition rules, within nine weeks.

The International Library of Poetry, 4th Joseph Nelson House, Midland Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3BR



The Coming of Dawn, featured above, is one of the Library's recent deluxe hardbound anthologies.

Publication Opportunity

All of the poems entered into the competition will also be considered for inclusion in one of the Library's forthcoming anthologies. Every poem remains the exclusive property of its author. Anthologies published by the organisation have included *On the Threshold of a Dream*, *Days of Future's Past*, *Of Diamonds and Rust*, and *The Coming of Dawn*, among others.

World's Largest Poetry Organisation

The International Library of Poetry was founded in 1987 to promote the work and achievements of contemporary poets – and is now recognised as the largest organisation of its kind in the world. In recent years it has awarded more than £60,000 in prize money to more than 5,000 poets worldwide. In the next twelve months £18,000 in prize money will be awarded in the UK alone.

Once hated, now rated: three modern masterpieces



Bexhill Pavilion



Coventry Cathedral



Hayward Gallery

Don't wait around – give up 'Today'

For the next three weeks I shall be up at the Edinburgh Festival, the Atlanta Olympics of the North, contributing to the pandemonium by working at the Pleasance in a show called "The Death of Ithaiovsky – a Sherlock Holmes mystery" (adv.). I am not going to miss more than a week from the *Independent*, but before I pack my bags, I think I ought to catch up on some unfinished business. In other words, to deal with some interesting readers' letters.

I complained the other day that I couldn't get World Service news on my radio and had to make do with the parochial and inferior Radio 4 *Today* programme version. I was rapped on the knuckles by Mrs Bidwell of County Durham, who says that all I have to do is get a satellite dish. "Tune in the relevant audio frequency on UK Gold. Use gadget on remote control to remove 'picture' telling you to insert card, and get restful green 'picture' and listen to World Service through TV set!"

"Like you I'm appalled by the arrogant Birt – but get on to satellite and stop grumbling about reception (until recently we lived in the far north-west of Scotland so we know something about it)..."

Well, I wasn't really grumbling about World Service reception – I was grumbling about the *Today* programme, and I am not the only one. A well known writer sends me a card from the Garrick Club: "Bravo! About time somebody said how shallow and fatuous the *Today* programme can be. How DARE the sods try to level the World Service down to that?" I won't mention his name, partly because I haven't asked him if I can quote him, partly because if I refer to him as a well known writer you will all assume that he is even more well known than he really is.

Mr Coker of Wiltshire has an interesting observation. "Another curious point is that in the daily farming programme on Radio 4 at 0610 the views expressed by farmers,



Miles Kingston

agricultural institutes, vets, research workers, etc, invariably flatly contradict those on food and farming put out in the Radio 4 news. They also (today, for example, 26 July) reveal items being concealed by the MAFF such as that some 10 per cent of our cattle now have BIV (this is the bovine version of HIV). Yet only one small herd has been selected for slaughter. The MAFF is keeping the news under wraps, presumably in the hope that there is no potential danger to humans and that, like BSE, it's all a storm in a tea-cup. Let's hope so."

I think the secret of the

fatuousness of the *Today* programme lies in the way politicians often say that they always listen to *Today* as they get up. The clue is that *Today* caters for party politicians and for no one else. Nobody else need listen. It is turning into a game for interviewers and party hacks, a private talking shop, so that, for instance, when you hear an interviewer trying to get a leading Labour man to admit that a lot of pressure was put on some MPs not to stand for shadow office, the interviewer seems totally unaware that it is all of no conceivable interest to anyone alive except somebody who works in party politics.

Mr Heckels of Ipswich puts it another way. He says he gave up listening to *Today* after an interview between Sue MacGregor and Chris Patten before the latter went to Hong Kong. Patten was due to announce some new tax that afternoon in the House, but Ms MacGregor kept on asking him what it would be, although he kept saying he couldn't pre-

announce it. At the third or fourth time, Patten said:

"Look, you were told before I agreed to come on this programme that I could not divulge the figure in question and yet you have now asked me three times. Goodbye."

Mr Heckel adds in a PS: "Do you have any idea why, when a constitutional matter arises, Lord St John of Fawley is always wheeled out as a 'constitutional expert'? Does he have any academic qualifications to justify this description? I have always thought of him as a failed Tory minister."

No, sir, I have no idea why. Finally, thanks to all those who wrote in and said that there was a slang word for bicycles in living memory, namely in the Fifties when they were often called "gridirons" or "grids". Brian Dowling said that at Cambridge in the Forties they were called "bogwheels", which may have been shortened later to "boggles". And now I must pack my saddlebags, jump on my grid and head up the road to Edinburgh.

Welfare: Clinton's lesson for Blair

While Labour's plans for reform remain unclear, the right may triumph, says Nicholas Timmins

When the US sneezes, Europe catches a cold. Will this old economic saw prove true of welfare, as Bill Clinton approves legislation that requires recipients to find work within two years or lose benefits, limits families to a lifetime total of five years on benefit and contains other measures that end Roosevelt's 60-year-old New Deal guarantee of open-ended assistance to the poor? These measures so draconian that the *New York Times* described them as "odious" and British welfare groups as "horrendous" and "unbelievable".

The answer is both yes and no. There are parallels in both politics and policy in the US. But there are big differences too. Perhaps the most important parallel is the political. These measures - Republican right-wing measures - have been approved by a Democratic president who was elected in 1992 on a promise to "end welfare as we know it". Until yesterday, however, through a complex mixture of politics and practicality, he had failed to deliver. As a result, he has found himself trapped in a largely right-wing agenda.

Meanwhile, in the UK, we have a Labour leader heading on current

form to be Prime Minister who also is promising a big reform of welfare. As yet, it is poorly specified. But a central message from Blair - as it was for Clinton - is that only Labour can be trusted to reform the welfare state. Given the inevitable spending pressures he will face, it is a promise on which he will be required, at least in some measure, to deliver.

The parallels, however, should not be overdrawn. In the US, the federal (or national) programme, which Clinton is cutting, sets the framework (or safety-net minimum) for means-tested welfare and provides the cash for it. It is the individual states that deliver. And they have considerable discretion, both to be more generous - and some are - as well as to seek waivers from the programme to be more mean, or more imaginative, in how they use the cash. Yesterday's package includes greater powers for states to experiment, setting their own conditions on benefit, introducing more discretion, allowing yet greater variation in a system that already displays far greater variation than the UK.

Some of that is beginning to happen here. Benefit is already being made more conditional - witness the new

duties on job seeking and job taking enacted in the Jobseeker's Allowance, due in October. Witness also Gordon Brown's insistence for Labour that his jobs and training package for the young will not include the right to refuse to take part and still receive full benefit. Across the party divide - and across the left-right divide within the main parties - there is greater interest in forms of welfare, experiments that would offer,

In the UK, threatening to cut people off without a penny is not on the agenda

perhaps eventually require, work in return for benefits plus a bit.

Equally, more discretion is slowly creeping into a system that, since the early 1980s, has been heavily rules-based. And, finally, there will be more experiments in social security, and possibly more local variation. Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, has taken powers to allow both

(though not, as yet, local variation in existing benefit rates), and he will shortly launch the pilots of Earnings Top-up, a form of family credit for the childless. These are powers a Labour government too would use.

These limited parallels, however, do not mean that time-limited benefits of the sort Clinton has agreed to are on the way to the UK. For, asylum seekers aside, threatening to cut people off without a penny is not on the agenda for even the most radical of the free-market think-tanks. As Madsen Pirie, the director of the Adam Smith Institute, put it yesterday, "I don't think that's a goal here, people wouldn't stand for it."

But there is another potential parallel. Clinton's agreement to essentially Republican proposals radically to limit benefits has arisen because his own proposals for welfare reform failed to materialise. And something similar could yet happen to Labour in office. For Labour's own plans for welfare reform as yet remain unclear. Its big ideas include an intention to reduce means-testing, a desire to fully fund pensions, a real wish to get people off welfare and into work, and a toying with Frank Field's radical ideas for hugely increasing spending on social

security via compulsory contributions to new forms of insurance through friendly and mutual societies.

Much of this would indeed be bold, and quite probably boldly expensive. If it fails to materialise, Tony Blair will not of course find himself in exactly Clinton's position - a Democratic Prime Minister, so to speak, having to accommodate a Republican House of Commons. British politics does not work like that. But if Labour fails to deliver on its agenda it will mean the ideas that will have triumphed in welfare state reform will be those of the right - which would almost certainly mean more steps down the road that Clinton has now agreed to tread.

Blair will either be left running broadly with the tide that Peter Lilley has set flowing - a cut and squeeze approach to social security spending; or, worse from his point of view, he might find himself faced by a populist Tory party led by a Fortillo or a Redwood advocating yet more of the Republican agenda. Faced with that and no deliverable alternative of his own, Blair could find himself, Clinton-like, having to adopt more of these new Conservatives' clothes. He might have to. And after all, he's done it before.

BOOK REVIEW

Memories are made of this

White Gloves:
How We Create Ourselves Through Memory
John Kotter

Simon & Schuster, £15.99

The issue of what is remembered and what forgotten is a key one in our society. Did Michael Portillo's or John Major's office "forget" the anniversary of the Somme? Are people who say they were sexually abused as children remembering real events, or misinterpreting others? Are eyewitnesses who give different descriptions of the same event lying? If we were all blessed with perfect memories, some say, we could know for sure.

Others contend that we remember everything perfectly: it's all "in there", and the only problem is getting it out. This camp tends to contain strong believers in the idea of "recovered memories", where adults' repressed recollections of horrific events in childhood can be pulled back to the surface intact.

But as John Kotter points out, in this beautifully guided tour through the landscape of our minds, we all forget. We have to: a perfect memory would be a curse. He cites the case of a young Russian newspaper reporter called Shereshevskii, who could retain lists of words, and recall them perfectly forwards and backwards, for years. But he could not forget anything, and so those lists sat in his mind, cluttering it; and he could not form abstractions from the groups of objects: everything was discrete, separate. "By the end of his life, all he could do was travel from town to town demonstrating his peculiar talent for memorising lists of words," writes Kotter.

So we have to forget some things, to be able to remember others. He explains how, as children learn language, they develop "scripts" for the day. This helps them know what to expect (and hence overlook, for the purposes of memory). Any parent will know that a child accustomed to an evening routine of dinner-bath-bedtime becomes enormously upset if given a bath before dinner. It doesn't fit the script; they fear dinner will not come.

But as also becomes clear, more complex versions of such scripts are vital to forming our personalities, and we misremember events in order to make them fit our self-perception. How many times have you heard people say things about their youth like "I was always picked last for sports" or "My father never gave me any

encouragement"? Always? Never? Such absolute terms cannot be true. But similar misrepresentations of the past, and the present ("The boss never notices me") inform our personalities and guide our decisions. Memory has to be fallible to work. Thus "recovered" childhood memories of sexual abuse may be wrong - but may be correct, too. There is simply no hard and fast rule.

Thankfully, Kotter - professor of psychology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn - keeps his writing jargon-free, producing something like a user's guide to memory. But he has another purpose: the book is his tribute to his father, who has Alzheimer's disease, and so has no coherent memory from day to day of his son, his wife, his family, himself.

He gives us a mirror to gaze at our own lives

The personal touches that are sprinkled through the book could have turned into episodes of pure schmaltz, but Kotter has a sure, gentle touch. He recalls days spent fishing together; he recalls the company softball game where his father wowed the crowd. Kotter recalls all the details - but then admits he is unsure if they are correct. But no matter: the anecdote has done its work, of fixing his father's life in his memory.

Kotter clearly has a mission - to purge himself of guilt about neglecting his father, in favour of his own career. (The "white gloves" of the title recall how his grandfather had to abandon becoming a professional clarinet player; he wore the gloves to play.) But while fulfilling that end, he provides us with a mirror in which we also gaze at our own relationship with our parents and our lives. What is your own earliest memory? What is the earliest memory that you think best defines your personality? Which best defines your relationship with your parents? Kotter throws the questions up to help to comprehend the process of memory. But in doing that, he helps us to begin to understand ourselves.

CHARLES ARTHUR

The British vote with their chequebooks when they rush to buy new-reg cars in August

What drives the P rush?



HAMISH McRAE

Something like half a million people in Britain are voting this month - statistically 7,500 will be readers of this newspaper - by exercising their democratic choice to buy a new P-reg car. However meaningless it might seem to have the letter P on the number-plate instead of an N, the fact remains that very large numbers of personal car buyers get their cars in August. They are not doing so because they are told to; they are doing so because they want to. It is a gigantic exercise in practical democracy, with people signing their names on cheques or loan agreements rather than putting an X on a ballot slip.

To see what it felt like yesterday I visited our local Ford dealer, Highbury Ford, the largest in central London. They had been there at 9pm the night before when our dog got his evening walk and they were back again by 8am when he got his morning one. By the end of the day the six sales staff will have cleared about 150 cars. Another 60 had been driven on trade plates to their new owner's driveways in the previous couple of days, so upwards of 200 cars from this dealer, out of a total of about 1,000 sold to private customers each year, will have had their first formal outing yesterday. More, of course, will be sold during the rest of the month.

Who wants a P-reg car on 1 August? The young and quite rich, wanting to display their wealth? Doubtless the marketing departments of the manufacturers have their profiles of the typical 1 August purchasers, but the impression of Linda Wise, sales executive at Highbury Ford, was that there was nothing flashy about the people who took delivery yesterday. It seemed to be mostly older people, 50-plus, and it was the Fiestas and the Escorts that were going out pronto. The people who bought the Scorpios or Probes were quite happy to take delivery later in the month - they were not fussed which day they arrived.

So maybe getting a P-reg car on 1 August is like the National Lottery: one of those demonstrations of ordinary human behaviour the chattering classes find hard to understand. As a cross-check I called in at the showroom of Jack Barclay, in Berkeley Square, where they sell 20 per cent of the Rolls-Royces and Bentleys in the UK. Despite the fact that I was unlikely to shell out £150,000 on a "pre-owned" Bentley, I was greeted with just as much courtesy as at Highbury.

It has so far been a good year for Rolls and Bentley, with sales in the first six months up 26 per cent, but there was less of a hubbub. At this level, the P business is a non-event. That is partly because Jack Barclay prides itself on preparing pre-owned cars so beautifully that many customers mistake them for new. So the two unregistered, gleaming and seemingly new Bentley Continentals in the showroom were actually second-hand. It is partly because people rich enough to buy a Rolls or a Bentley are not widely impressed by a P-reg anyway. But it is mostly because these people already have their own reg-



What's in a P? Half a million people will buy a new car in August, when the registration letter changes

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

istrations anyway. As Lynette Gridley, Jack Barclay's marketing manager, explained to me, two of the three cars waiting to go out would do so on "cherished" number plates.

What a wonderfully flexible, expressive language English is. Not "personal", certainly not "personalised", but "cherished". And that is really the right word to describe not just personal

curbs on out-of-town shopping centres, and so on. Labour has floated the idea of some kind of differential car tax, designed to penalise gas-guzzlers, though the Tory decision each year to increase tax on petrol by 5 per cent more than inflation may prove a simpler and more effective way of achieving the same end.

But this overt hostility towards the car - how-

understanding what ordinary people want.

This is going to become more of an issue as the election looms. Like tax, it is dangerous for Labour, to be branded as anti-car is analogous to being branded high-tax both are issues where the British talent for hypocrisy is evident. People say they would like curbs on the use of private cars and greater subsidies for public transport, just as they say they would pay higher taxes to support better public services. But when people vote on tax at an election, or vote with their chequebooks on 1 August, they do something different.

Meanwhile we need to crack the ludicrous inefficiency of the 1 August rush without spoiling the fun. Various ideas are being considered, with the short-term remedy of changing the year letter more frequently, say every three months. I have a suggestion, inspired by my visit to Jack Barclay. It is that everyone should have a cherished number plate. Instead of having to bid for numbers like P155 OFF (actually, I gather that one was banned on grounds of taste), we would simply choose one when we get our first driving licence and then keep it for life. It would be the ultimate in democracy, everyone a winner. What is more, it would be easier to remember it when stopped by the police.

Best P-registration buys: Section Two, page 16

The car issue is dangerous for Labour: to be branded anti-car is analogous to being branded high-tax

number plates but the whole P registration phenomenon. For many people the car is not just another boring consumer durable: it is valued, it is enjoyed, it is cherished.

Politicians would do well to remember this. It has long been fashionable among the prosperous left to belittle the motor-car. In the 1960s the *Guardian* took this attitude to its logical conclusion by appointing a motoring correspondent who couldn't drive. But recently the latent hostility has sprouted a series of suggestions designed to curb car use: motorway tolls, a levy on cars entering city centres, taxation on employee-parking provided at the workplace,

ever fashionable - is politically dangerous. There are powerful arguments for curbing pollution by improving and enforcing emission controls, though diesel buses and taxis are a more obvious source of pollution in many city centres than private cars. There are even more powerful arguments for any measures that improve road safety, in particular the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. But that is common sense. Having transport ministers (or indeed shadow transport ministers, for this is more of a problem for Labour than for the Tories) who are intuitively opposed to the principal means of transport is a bit like having motoring correspondents who don't drive. You are not

Just enjoy it, son, but watch that right foot

Tony Blair has been advised to model his language on sports presenter Des Lynam. Paul Valley imagines Des's analysis

Y'know, Tony. I didn't know whether to take it as a compliment. Or an insult.

I gather that your former communications lady, Joy Johnson, has told you to elbow what she calls "the elaborate and obscure" language you use. And instead, apparently, you're to model yourself on me.

Well, stranger things have happened. As anyone who tuned into a spot of Olympic beach volleyball will tell you, you wouldn't see that at Blackpool - and certainly not at the Labour party conference.

Anyway, New Labour's language should pass the Des Lynam test. That's what Miss Johnson says, in the *New Statesman* this week.

You have to be able to "generate excitement, unity and ambition", she

says. "And yet be capable of reacting to disappointment without despair. Well, you certainly get used to that when Brighton is your team, as mine is."

Seriously, though, she's got a point. I mean, just look at your speech to the last Labour conference. All that stuff about Britain as a "Young Country". It might have conjured up a mystical new Jerusalem to you, but it sounded like a cowboy film to me.

Then there was your pamphlet *New Labour: New Life for Britain* - sounded more like a long-term prison sentence. And "The Stakeholder Economy

has a Stakeholder Welfare System". Please!

Anyway, it's not just about language. It's tactics too.

I see you were down in the polls yesterday. Your personal approval rating has fallen to its lowest level since you became leader. A bit too much ruthlessness with the right foot, if you ask me.

Tell you what. Don't thrust yourself forward so much. Look at me. Lead sports anchorman. Hardly off our screens - Grand National, Euro 96, Wimbledon and now a fortnight of peaktime Olympic coverage. But who

says I'm over-exposed? Be more laid-back, son. Let the others into the game.

Like that John Prescott. He's a bit good. But don't leave him out on his own so much. Bring him into the double act - like I do with Jimmy Hill.

Great straight man, Prescott. Blunt Northern accent and all that. Perfect fall-guy for the old one-two. Like when Jimmy and me were talking about the 1966 World Cup final. And he said: "I was employed even then by the BBC - though in a very minor capacity of course." I was straight back. "You're

still in a minor capacity, Jimmy."

And another thing, Tonic, when it comes to the election. Don't make it too daunting. None of that stuff you did at the Fabian Society on "Socialism... based on a moral assertion that individuals are interdependent, that they owe duties to one another as well as themselves, that the good society backs up the efforts of the individuals within it..."

Team play, that's what you're talking about, son. Team play. So just say that.

Then just tell them: "Glad you've tuned in. You've probably heard there's a general election on tonight. Why don't you just sit back and enjoy it..."

Then, when it's over, you can come out from behind the sofa.

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TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME



Stephen Hinchliffe: Plans 'vigorous defence'

Hinchliffe 'unfit to be director', court told

MARTIN EMMERSON and NIGEL COPE

Court proceedings that could see former Facia chairman Stephen Hinchliffe banned from acting as a director for up to 15 years, began in Newcastle yesterday with the DTI claiming that both Mr Hinchliffe and former Facia finance director Christopher Harrison had breached their fiduciary duties, squandered money and put the interests of their own

private companies first. They were "unfit to be directors of a company", the DTI said.

The DTI action relates to their involvement with Boxgrey, which collapsed into liquidation with debts of £5m in 1994. Boxgrey was the renamed company which used to own En-Tout-Cas, a manufacturer of all-weather tennis courts.

At the preliminary hearing at Newcastle District Registry, Jonathan Holmes, for the DTI,

said the two men had transferred money from En-Tout-Cas to other organisations in which they had interests, then failed to repay the cash when the firm started to struggle.

He also said they squandered money with the purchase of new offices at a time when En-Tout-Cas was suffering financial hardships. It would have been better for them to continue renting their existing head office instead of investing in new premises, he said.

Mr Holmes added: "They acted only in the interests of the Chase companies [in which both were involved] and through them to the personal interests of Mr Hinchliffe." These actions were to the detriment of En-Tout-Cas, its creditors, employees and in breach of their fiduciary duty, he added. "It is our application that the respondents are unfit to be directors of a company."

Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Harrison have until 24 October to

reply to the application. Neither was present in court for the hour-long hearing.

District Judge Ward, who presided over the session, said that because the case was so complex he would be inviting the Vice-Chancellor, Jonathan Parkin, to hear it, probably early next year.

Once the two former directors have handed over all of their evidence the DTI will have until 16 January to review the material. A date for hearing the final application will then be set.

Both men will "vigorously defend" the application which could see them banned from being directors of companies for a minimum of five years.

Mr Hinchliffe claims he sold Boxgrey a month before it collapsed and was not responsible for placing it in liquidation.

He has said that he is confident the proceedings will be dismissed and that his name will be cleared.

Mr Hinchliffe founded Facia in 1994 and acquired a string of high street names including Freeman Hardy Willis, Salsbury, Contessa and Sock Shop.

The company collapsed into receivership in June with estimated debts of £30m.

Since then, many of the shops have been sold, though some of the shoe stores remain in administration. The Tori jewellery chain, which Mr Hinchliffe acquired for just £1, has not found a buyer.

Boeing swoops on \$3.2bn Rockwell in defence merger

DAVID USBORNE
New York
CHRIS GODSMARK
London

In a deal that will send tremors through the defence and aerospace industries world-wide, Boeing yesterday bought the bulk of the space and defence units of Rockwell International for \$3.2bn (£2bn).

The move is likely to increase pressure for a further restructuring of the European defence industry, including the long-discussed possibility of a merger between GEC and British Aerospace.

The surprise agreement marks a significant new phase in the continuing consolidation of the North American defence industry. It also promises to put Boeing, based in Seattle, on the path to becoming the world's dominant aerospace and defence giant.

Boeing makes the B-2 bomber, the Chinook military helicopter, the early-warning aircraft and the F22 fighter, while Rockwell is best known for its contributions to the US space programmes, from Apollo to the current fleet shuttles orbiters, for which it makes the main engines.

Boeing will acquire the Rockwell units through a combination of stock and a pledge to take on outstanding debt and other burdens, including pension obligations.

Boeing president, Phil Condit, said: "This merger accelerates us on our way to achieving our 20-year vision, which calls for Boeing to be a fully integrated aerospace company de-

signing, producing and supporting commercial airplanes, defence systems, and defence and civil space systems."

Other holdings covered by the deal include Rockwell's missile divisions and a unit that produced and supports the B1 bomber.

In shedding these interests, Rockwell plans to complete a long-term shift towards pure electronics, computer modems and factory automation equipment. The new, slimmer company will retain the Rockwell name, while those holdings transferred to Boeing will become Boeing North American.

Wall Street welcomed the deal, and both stocks rose sharply in early trading yesterday. "It is a good move for both," remarked Phil Orlando of Value Line Asset Management.

The deal, meanwhile, is only the latest shake-up in the US defence community as it reacts to smaller military procurement budgets reflecting the passing of the Cold War. It follows the combination of Lockheed and Martin Marietta to create Lockheed Martin last year and the formation also through a merger of Northrop Grumman.

McDonnell Douglas meanwhile is believed to be in talks with Raytheon to consider some combination of their defence businesses.

"This is what was forecast when the Berlin Wall fell," said Douglas Myers, vice-president of Interstate Johnson Lane. "When you get consolidation, you get the economies of scale and you get an oligopoly-type of pricing structure where the

Department of Defense has to choose from half-a-dozen contractors, which is pretty good for the owners of these stocks."

For European defence contractors, the tie-up comes as another graphic reminder of the consolidation taking place in the defence industry. The French government has already announced a root-and-branch rationalisation to compete with America. For the UK, the Boeing deal will raise further questions about the potential for closer co-operation between GEC and British Aerospace.

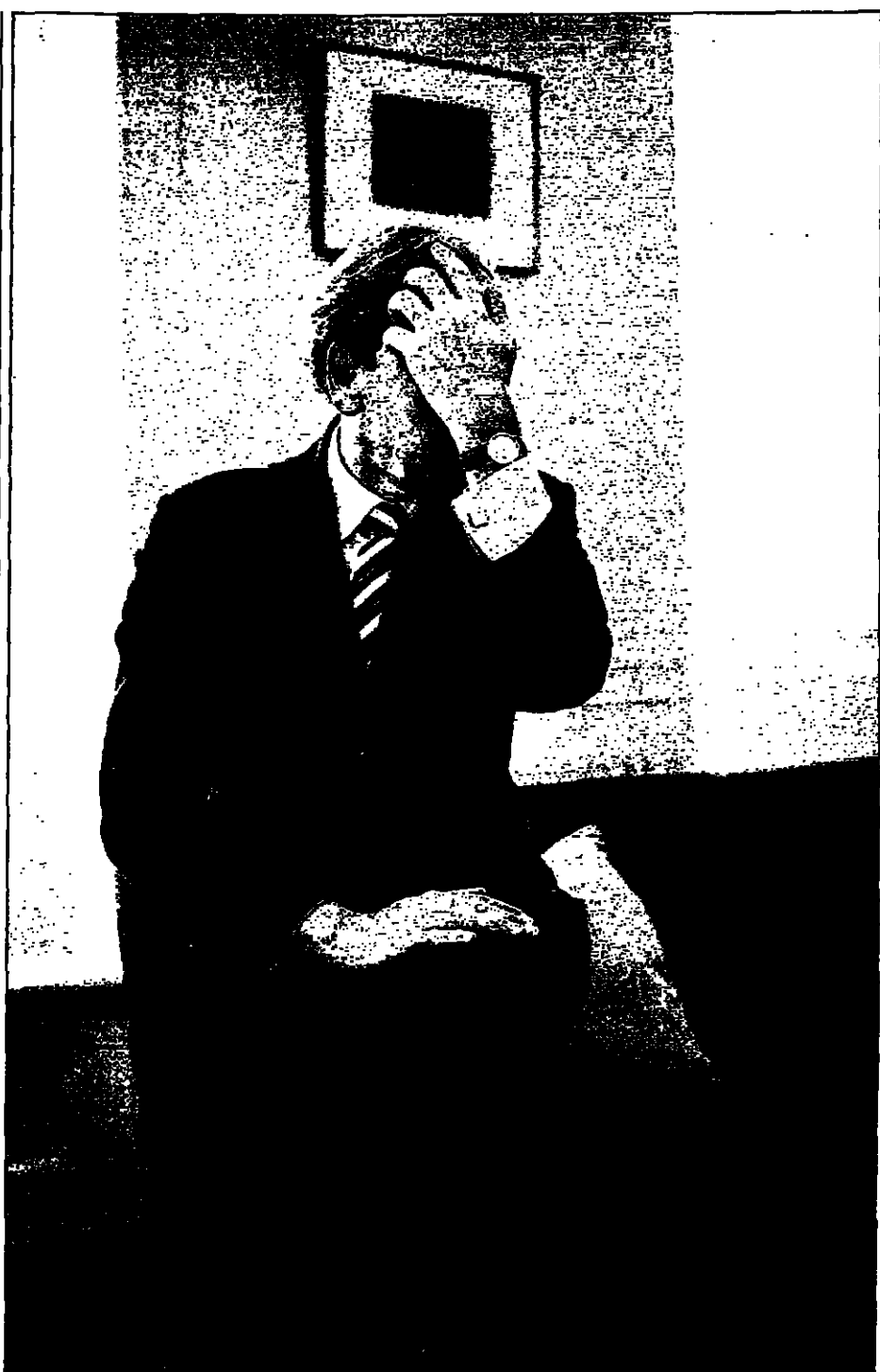
BaE dampened speculation of a merger between the two companies earlier this year, but with former BaE-man George Simpson about to take the helm at GEC, some kind of link-up is bound to be high on the strategic agenda.

Mr Simpson has said little about his intentions for GEC, but he will be sitting on a cash pile of more than £2bn.

The French move appears to have reduced the chances of GEC teaming up with Thomson-CSF, the state-owned French electronics group.

Last year GEC gained control of Barrow-in-Furness submarine builder VSEL. But Mr Simpson knows he is expected to provide a broader long-term vision for the company.

The latest American deal will undergo the usual government scrutiny and will need the approval of Rockwell shareholders at a special meeting in November. Boeing has offered to issue about \$860m of its common stocks and to retain \$2.165bn of Rockwell's debt and other obligations.



Ouch! David Potter, chairman of the paintpot computer-maker Psion, contemplates the £1.5m in professional fees for its abortive Amstrad bid in otherwise sparkling first-half figures. Pre-exceptional profits jumped from £5.1m to £8.0m investment, page 18

British Gas writ provokes counter action

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

The latest attempt by British Gas to save "Sid" was on the verge of backfiring last night, as it emerged that oil and gas firms were considering issuing writs against the company in the continuing row over who should pay the gas levy.

British Gas last week stunned the industry by issuing a £1bn writ against the Government, claiming it should never have paid some of the levy – a tax on cheap gas contracts signed in the early Seventies. In response, the Department of Trade and Industry issued writs against 27 oil and gas companies involved in the contracts to safeguard for the taxpayer.

In what is fast becoming a complex legal game of "pass the parcel," several of these firms are considering issuing writs against British Gas in an attempt to pass liability back to the company, which started the legal merry-go-round in the first place.

The firms are those which have a stake in the Hewett gas field off the Norfolk coast. One firm is known to be drawing up a writ, while several others are seriously considering the move. They include Arco, the US company which discovered Hewett in 1966, and which has a 20 per cent stake in the field.

An Arco spokesman said: "We have analysed the contract and we are considering all our options at the moment. One of those options is the possibility that we might be able to recover from British Gas any levy that we may have to pay."

Another large oil and gas producer said: "Our interpre-

tation is clearly that British Gas's arguments don't stack up. If they sue the DTI and the DTI sues us, then we will sue British Gas."

Asked about the development yesterday evening, British Gas said: "We are unaware of any basis on which a claim might be made."

British Gas has claimed the contracts in question have been altered so many times over the years that they no longer have

validity. The legislation for the gas levy, which is worth 1p a therm on bills, states that if British Gas is not liable, the original producer of the gas should pay instead. None of the writs have been served yet, and British Gas has insisted it will be negotiating with the DTI. A spokeswoman for the company explained: "We expect to be in discussion with the DTI on ways to take this dispute forward without it having to be placed formally before the courts."

However, the DTI said yesterday: "No discussions are taking place, none are planned."

Economy: Low inflation, higher output and increased confidence lift hopes on both sides of the Atlantic

House price rise gathers pace Clinton hails surge of 4.2% in US growth

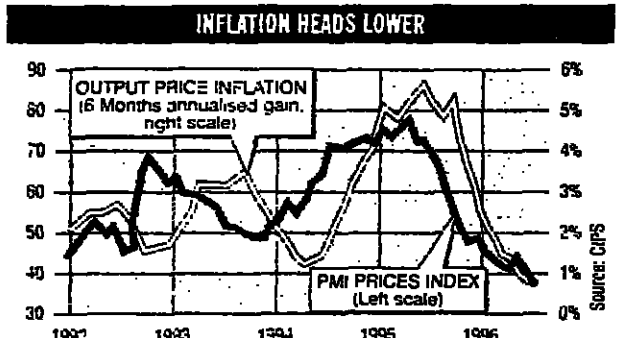
DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

House prices are growing at their fastest rate since 1989, according to new figures from Halifax Building Society. Nationwide is expected to report a further increase in its house price index today.

The latest sign that the housing market is coming back to life was accompanied by other surveys showing higher output and orders in industry, lower inflation and the return of consumer confidence to late-1980s levels.

But against the kind of economic dream ticket on which the Government's hopes of re-election rest, the Labour Party attacked it for its long-term neglect of manufacturing industry. It published a report showing the number of jobs in manufacturing had fallen to below 4 million from 7 million in 1979.

A separate report from the Construction Industry Employers' Council predicted that more than 30,000 construction



jobs will be lost this year, although it said the industry's output would start to grow again next year.

According to Halifax, house prices last month were 5.3 per cent higher than a year earlier, the fastest annual increase since the tail-end of the housing boom and up from 4 per cent in June.

The average cost of a property rose 0.5 per cent between June and July, following a 0.4

per cent dip between May and June. Nationwide is expected to report similar monthly increase. Halifax is sticking to its prediction that house prices will climb 5 per cent during 1996 as a whole.

The housing market recovery is going hand in hand with a revival of consumer confidence according to a survey published by consultancy Business Strategies. Consumers are more confident about the state of the

economy than at any time since 1988, it reported.

However, Business Strategies director David Fell said a return to the boom conditions of the late 1980s was unlikely. "The consumer will be the mainstay of economic growth in the short term but we do not expect to see an explosion of demand."

Strengthening consumer demand helped manufacturing pick up for the second month running, according to the monthly survey of purchasing managers by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. Higher output and a big jump in new orders raised the activity index for the second month running, while the survey pointed to a slight fall in the workforce.

Yet prices paid for materials by manufacturers fell to a new low, signalling further declines in inflation at the factory gate and ultimately on the high street. The prices paid on balance fell particularly sharply too fast to keep a lid on inflation

DAVID USBORNE
New York

There was instant celebration at the White House as fresh indicators released yesterday showed a stronger-than-expected 4.2 per cent economic growth rate in the US in the second quarter, the fastest pace in two years.

The figures were welcome news for President Bill Clinton in election year. "This is good news for America," Mr Clinton declared at a Washington press conference.

They compare with the relatively feeble 2 per cent rate of growth in GDP in the first quarter and the positively anaemic 0.3 per cent performance in the last three months of 1995.

Stephen Roach, chief economist at Morgan Stanley, commented: "The big question is whether the economy is growing too fast to keep a lid on inflation

and whether it forces the hand of the Federal Reserve."

But any worries in the markets about a return of inflationary pressures, which would trigger higher interest rates, were tempered in the meantime by the monthly survey from the National Association of Purchasing Management showing an unexpected slowdown in manufacturing growth in July.

The NAPM report encouraged the view that the economy remains under control and that the Fed would therefore hold back from raising interest rates after its policy meeting on 20 August. In morning trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up by almost 50 points.

Traders will look closely for further clues in July employment figures due to be released today.

Previous months' jobs surges have sent bond and share prices diving.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3734.40	+31.20	+0.8	3567.10	3632.30
FTSE 250	4243.00	+12.40	+0.3	4069.60	4075.32
FTSE 350	1969.80	+15.50	+0.8	1846.40	1916.60
FT Single Cap	2085.99	+1.81	+0.2	2244.36	1954.08
FT All Share	1848.04	+12.60	+0.7	1924.17	1791.95
New York	5587.36	+59.45	+1.1	5775.00	5034.94
Tokyo	20984.83	+293.00	+1.4	22695.80	19734.70
Hong Kong	10799.87	+108.45	+1.0	11594.92	10204.97
Frankfurt	2494.46	+21.11	+0.9	2662.49	2255.36

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year
UK short sterling	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75
US short term	5.25	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25
Germany	3.25	3.50	3.75	4.00	4.25
Japan	0.49	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.50
France	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.75
Italy	4.75	5.00	5.25	5.50	5.75
Spain	3.75	4.00	4.25	4.50	4.75
Portugal	10.75	11.00	11.25	11.50	11.75
Greece	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Belgium	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.75
Netherlands	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.75
Austria	3.75	4.00	4.25	4.50	4.75
Sweden	4.75	5.00	5.25	5.50	5.75
Denmark	3.75	4.00	4.25	4.50	4.75
Finland	4.75	5.00	5.25	5.50	5.75
Ireland	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75
Poland	10.75	11.00	11.25	11.50	11.75
Czech Republic	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Slovak Republic	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Slovenia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Croatia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Serbia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Bulgaria	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Romania	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Hungary	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Malta	10.75	11.00	11.25	11.50	11.75
Cyprus	10.75	11.00	11.25	11.50	11.75
Luxembourg	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.75
Belarus	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Ukraine	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Moldova	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Georgia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Armenia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Azerbaijan	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Kazakhstan	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Kyrgyzstan	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Tajikistan	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Turkmenistan	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Uzbekistan	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Yemen	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Libya	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Algeria	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Morocco	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Tunisia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Egypt	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Sudan	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Ethiopia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Somalia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Kenya	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Uganda	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Rwanda	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Burundi	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Tanzania	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Zambia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Malawi	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Mozambique	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Botswana	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Lesotho	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Namibia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Swaziland	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Sierra Leone	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Liberia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Ivory Coast	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Ghana	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Senegal	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Gambia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Guinea	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Sierra Leone	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Liberia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Ivory Coast	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Ghana	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Senegal	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Gambia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Guinea	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Sierra Leone	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Liberia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Ivory Coast	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Ghana	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Senegal	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Gambia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Guinea	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Sierra Leone	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75
Liberia	15.75	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.75



COMMENT

The Government is squarely in the dock for the indecent haste with which it sold off the businesses to meet a nakedly political timetable. Appearing to be a forced seller is rarely a recipe for maximising price.

Porterbrook Three have a laugh at our expense

If Steve Martin ever made a sequel to *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* then the supporting cast would consist of the Porterbrook Three - Sandy Anderson, Ray Cork and Tim Gilbert. Mr Anderson knows about planes because he used to work for a subsidiary of GE Capital, one of the world's biggest jet leasing companies. Mr Cork once finance director of Swan National Leasing. Now, however, they all know about trains because in the Lucky Lotto of life they were chosen to be executive directors of Porterbrook Leasing.

Since yesterday they also know a lot about money. Stagecoach's £476m bid will enable Mr Anderson to trouser £36.25m from his Porterbrook shares. Mr Cork £16.74m and Mr Gilbert £10.7m. In anybody's lingo, that ain't bad money for the six months it has taken to turn Porterbrook from a BR outpost into a subsidiary of Stagecoach by way of a management buyout.

It is tempting to say good luck to the Porterbrook Three. After all, didn't they throw up good jobs and mortgage their homes to take their chances in the high-risk world of private railways? Er, not exactly. Porterbrook Leasing is in the happy position of knowing that 80 per cent of its revenues worth some £1.6bn are guaranteed for the next eight to ten years by - and this is the rub - you and me and every other taxpayer in the land. Alright, but surely they must have done something for the business

since they joined. Well, as best we can work out, their "innovative management" has brought in £30m worth of new business over the next five years - hardly the big time when revenues are pushing £300m a year anyway and you have the clout that a fleet of 3,500 vehicles and a third of the market for train operating companies under your belt.

Needless to say, Labour is now stoking the boilers of another "fat cat" (fat controller?) controversy for all its worth and the Government is looking dumber by the day for having sold the business on the cheap.

It is not quite all the fault of the Secretary of State for Transport, Sir George Young. Nor is it all a travesty of justice because every employee of Porterbrook, right down to the humblest receptionist, is in the money big time.

In truth, nobody quite realised what gravy trains the rolling stock companies would be until the Japanese bank Nomura took over another of them, Angel Train Contracts, and demonstrated just how cheaply they could be financed by securitising the debt against future revenue streams and then getting a triple A rating.

But the Government is squarely in the dock for the indecent haste with which it sold off the businesses to meet a nakedly political timetable. Appearing to be a forced seller is rarely a recipe for maximising price.

In the fictional world of *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* the joke was on Steve Martin.

In real life the joke is on the taxpayer and it is the Porterbrook Three who are laughing all the way to the bank.

Playing Frankenstein at Eurotherm

One of the sorriest episodes in British corporate governance is about to come to a close with the appointment of a new non-executive chairman at Eurotherm. The board may even meet today. That will pave the way for the return of chief executive Claes Hultman to the company he is credited with turning around and out of which he stormed a month ago after failing to secure the executive chairman's job.

No one has emerged with any credit from this sad saga. Not the main protagonist Mr Hultman, who has behaved like a penitent two-year-old only to be rewarded with a special treat, nor the institutions who objected in haste and will most likely repent at their leisure, nor the non-executive directors of Eurotherm who have been pushed around to such an extent by all concerned that their role as independent watchdogs lacks all credibility.

The actions of a handful of institutions - the Pru, MAM and Schroders - in instigating the call for Mr Hultman's return has made a mockery of the idea that all shareholders are equal. Behind closed doors, and with a steadfast refusal to comment on their motives, they have negotiated the future

board structure of the company with no reference to the rest of its owners. During the past month, the company's shares have drifted in an information vacuum.

The refusal of the institutions to explain their actions probably stems from a rising sense of embarrassment at the hole they had dug themselves into. By overruling the non-executives' decision to call Mr Hultman's bluff, calling cap in hand at his Swedish holiday island to ask him to come back, they have played Frankenstein. The monster they have created is a chief executive who will believe, with some justification, that he is untouchable by an emasculated board.

Ultimately, it is they who may rue Mr Hultman's return. He has nothing to gain and everything to lose by coming back to Eurotherm, where only a continuation of the impressive growth of the past five years will be deemed acceptable. It won't be terribly surprising in those circumstances when he finds a job with a better risk/reward profile somewhere else. Who will look silly then?

Ethics mean profits in the long term

If there are riots, it must be Indonesia. British investors seem pretty unconcerned about the dramatic unrest in Jakarta - as unconcerned, in fact, as they have been about Indonesia's authoritarian government and its repressive policies.

British companies' lack of interest in the politics of these far-away countries is, in a way, entirely understandable. There are few examples of internal conflict rebounding badly on international investors. Even in South Africa, where international sanctions and lobbying limited corporate activities, the interests of British companies suffered no long-run damage. Outrages like Tiananmen Square have simply been shrugged off by corporations who reason that if they don't grab the opportunity then someone else will.

Yet there is more at stake than the hypocrisy of investing in brutal and undemocratic regimes at the same time as sending top executives off on business ethics courses. Consumer boycotts of their products at home are admittedly remote and rarely effective.

But the times are a changin'. The jury decision earlier this week to acquit four women who disarmed a British Aerospace jet is one sign. American consumers have started applying pressure to companies like Nike who buy their goods from Indonesian sweatshops. Britain has more at stake, with the second biggest stock of investments in Indonesia after Japan.

More fundamentally, ethical business is, mostly, good business. If the Tiger economies are to join the first division, they will have to change politically. In the long-run there will be political reform in Indonesia. The companies who recognise that, rather than washing their hands of the politics, will be the ones that profit.

Chemicals sector: Fall in demand and rising raw material costs hit performance of big companies, turning analysts' predictions on their head

Slump cuts Shell profits by £100m

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

Collapsing chemicals earnings, the petrol price war and a strengthening pound knocked £100m off Royal Dutch Shell's second quarter profits, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant said yesterday. But the company, which is in the throes of a huge restructuring programme, insisted there was "no cause for serious concern".

Between April and June, Shell's net income fell 8 per cent, to £1.18bn. Taking the first half of the year as a whole, however, earnings rose by 15 per cent, to £2.9bn.

In the latest set of bad results from the industry, Shell's chemicals income collapsed by 54 per cent in the second quarter, to £184m. John Jennings, the chairman, admitted that chemicals were "struggling" and that profits from the core chemicals businesses had risen only slightly in recent months. He added, however, that "prudence would call for a view of the second half of the year as simply a repeat of the first half".

The impact of the industry-wide crisis in chemicals earnings would have been worse had it not been for the unexpected rise in oil prices.

Shell's targets are based on a price of \$15 (£10) for a barrel of Brent Crude, but the severe winter in the Northern hemisphere and historically low US stocks of oil briefly pushed prices through the \$20 barrier.

In the second quarter of the year, Shell's oil sold for an average of \$19.50. As a result, earnings from oil exploration and production jumped by 44 per cent, to \$670bn. The company said the possibility of Iraqi oil coming on stream later this year had largely been discounted by the market.

The petrol price war in the UK continued to take its toll on refining businesses. Admitting the war was still "raging", Mr Jennings said Shell needed to make further cuts in back office costs to compensate for extra money spent on advertising and promotions.

Esso started the price war earlier this year with its campaign to match the lowest price of petrol in a local area. Like most rivals, Shell is selling petrol in Britain at a loss, and joined competitors in predicting a further industry rationalisation, including more closures of rural garages. Mr Jennings said the supermarket petrol outlets had "had a spectacular run" and were "selling petrol at prices which are very, very hard, if not impossible, to match".

Another factor in Shell's drop in second quarter earnings was the strength of sterling. The stronger pound knocked £60m off second quarter income, compared with a gain of £77m in the first quarter.

Summing up the results, Mr Jennings said, "I'm reasonably happy... but there's still a long way to go before I'll be content."

Investment column, page 18



Black horizon: chemicals have been hit by falling demand in both the US and Europe, damaging company profits

Hanson's plans hit by SCM downturn

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Hanson's demerger plans were dealt another blow yesterday as its chemicals arm warned that prices had weakened at SCM, one of its two main operating businesses.

The conglomerate's shares, which have fallen 26 per cent since the announcement of plans to break the group up into four separately quoted companies, closed 4.5p, or 3 per cent, lower at 155.75p.

Chemical prices have fallen 8 per cent in the US and 10 per cent in Europe since December as demand, which traditionally picks up in the Spring, remained weak. SCM is the world's third-largest maker of titanium dioxide, whose main customers are the paper and paint industries.

Analysts cut forecasts for Hanson by up to 2 per cent this year and 4 per cent next after the unexpected news. "It's obviously contrary to what the company has been expecting,"

said Nigel Utley, an analyst at Greig Middleton. "They've been leading us to hope that prices would have firmed up throughout the summer, but that's obviously not been happening."

SCM is now delaying by six months plans to add 41,000 tons of capacity by 1998. It is also going to postpone the start-up of a plant in Australia which was planned to open in January 1999.

Bill Landuyt, chief executive of the chemicals business - to be called Millennium Chemicals

when it is floated off from Hanson in October - said: "We've got a very disciplined approach at Hanson and if the pricing isn't there now, we're going to adjust our plans accordingly and control that spend."

Analysts now believe SCM will make profits of between \$95m and \$100m compared with previous estimates of about \$120m and last year's \$107m.

SCM accounted for about 30 per cent of the division's sales in the first half and about 36 per cent of profits. It had planned

to expand capacity by 20 per cent by 1998 and by 45 per cent the following year, culminating in the construction of the world's largest titanium dioxide plant in Australia.

Mr Landuyt attempted to play down the significance of the sales decline, blaming poor weather in both the US and Europe which had led to less demand for paint.

SCM plans to raise prices by 8 per cent in October and believes the demand is now in place to sustain the increase.

Price dip behind EVC loss

EVC International, the biggest maker of PVC in Europe, has crashed into the red and warned its problems are far from over. The company, which is part-owned by ICI and Enichem of Italy, floated on the Amsterdam stock exchange in 1994. It said yesterday that a slump in prices for plastics was principally behind a 7.8m guilders (£3m) first-half loss compared with a 152.7m guilders profit in the same period last year.

Profit margins on PVC were the lowest for a decade, caused by higher prices for the raw material ethylene and lower selling prices. Competition from Eastern European rivals flooding western Europe with cheap PVC had also hurt EVC's market share in some countries, Etore dell'Isola, chairman, said.

"We were confronted with cheap imports from countries such as Romania which offer low quality products. It was our decision not to compete on price and we therefore lost market share in certain countries," he added.

EVC's overall market share, however, remained stable due to gains made in Germany, Mr dell'Isola said.

The second half of the year is, however, traditionally slow and there are no signs of an easing in raw material prices. The company has also suffered production problems due to the severe winter and maintenance shut-downs.

The news unsettled EVC's shares, which fell 10 per cent immediately after the results were announced to 46.5 guilders before regaining some ground to close 3 per cent down on the day - helped by a 43 per cent boost in the interim dividend to 1 guilder a share.

Judicial review bid flawed, says Lloyd's

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, yesterday wrote to the Paying Names Action Group insisting that its application for a judicial review of the £3.2bn rescue was flawed and had negligible chances of success.

He also said Lloyd's was at the "limit of our resources", and that there was no prospect of the rescue being topped up by the

£100m that Tony Welford, chairman of the group, suggested was needed.

He questioned whether the action group had the mandate it claimed from its 3,000 members, who would be unable to accept the rescue offer if they continued with the litigation.

The toughly worded response came hours after the action group lodged papers at the High Court, taking the first steps towards a judicial review.

There is expected to be a hearing early next week at which a judge will be asked for leave to proceed to a full hearing.

The group's case is based on the fact that some members who paid their debts benefit less from the rescue plan than those who refused to pay.

John Abramson, of Warner Cranston, solicitors, said one of the remedies the names were seeking was an injunction. Lloyd's sources suggested that if

an injunction were requested, the market would demand the rebels lodge a bond covering the potential costs of blocking the rescue, which could run into billions.

Mr Welford said: "We don't want to bring the house tumbling down - after all, we are the most loyal supporters of Lloyd's, since we paid out bills."

"Our only objective is to make Lloyd's realise they have to talk to us."

Financial view page 20

Eurotherm paves way for Hultman's return

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Eurotherm is poised to end its simmering boardroom row with the appointment of a new non-executive chairman. An announcement may come as early as today.

The appointment will pave the way for the return of chief executive Claes Hultman, who resigned a month ago after failing to persuade non-executives

to make him executive chairman of the electronic components group.

Eurotherm has drifted without a chief executive since Mr Hultman dramatically quit the company on 4 July. Shares in Eurotherm plunged on news of the departure of the Swedish businessman who is credited with a revival in its fortunes after a slump in profits at the beginning of the 1990s.

Although accounts differ, it is understood that Mr Hultman made it clear that there was not enough room in the boardroom to accommodate himself, Jack Leonard, founder and chairman of Eurotherm, and Peter Wade, chief operating officer. When he tried to concentrate too much executive power in his own hands, and the non-executives objected, he walked out.

That prompted an unusual intervention by a small group of

institutional investors to have Mr Hultman reinstated. Hiding behind a wall of silence, the institutions and the Eurotherm board have spent the past month attempting to find a candidate acceptable to all parties. It is thought Mr Leonard will stand down early.

The return of Mr Hultman will bring to a close a sequence of events one analyst said yesterday had made the company the laughing stock of the City.



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business

Must-do-better Shell is all at sea

Expectations of another record quarter's income were cruelly dashed by disappointing interim figures from Shell yesterday and the 11p fall to a closing price of 911.5p was entirely justified. Chairman John Jennings' "must do better" gloss on the results was echoed in the City where attention focused on the oil and chemicals giant's woeful inability to meet even its internal performance targets.

On the face of it, a 15 per cent increase in net income was a presentable first-half result, but within that a sharp fall in second-quarter profits gave a worrying pointer to the future. What really drove the shares down was the £100m fall in net income - 8 per cent - from £1.28bn to £1.18bn. Earnings per share for Shell Transport, the UK side of the Anglo-Dutch empire, dropped from 14p to 12.9p between April and June.

Again on the face of it, the worst part of the picture was the chemicals business, where profits fell a whopping 54 per cent. But in that, Shell was at least in good company yesterday with the former ICI joint venture EVC and Hanson both complaining about the dire trading conditions afflicting the industry. Chemicals is a highly cyclical business and, to an extent, out of the hands of individual company managements.

The real problem at Shell lies in the intensely competitive refining and marketing division, the downstream arm that among other things makes and sells the company's petrol. Though half-yearly income rose by 27 per cent to £1bn, the business has consistently failed to match internal targets. Last November Shell unveiled the "road map", an appropriate title for the corporate gospel of an oil company. It sets targets for return on capital and, as the restructuring continues, the road map has assumed supreme importance. It does not make happy reading.

For a start, Shell set a headline target of a 12 per cent total return for this year, compared with 10.4 per cent last year. The actual return in the four quarters to June 1996 was just 10.2 per cent. That would be bad enough were the target very demanding. The fact of the matter is that BP, the industry's top performer after a remarkable return to form since the departure of Bob Horton four years ago, manages to achieve an 18 per cent return.

Basically, Shell is below the industry average across the board. But the real crunch is in refining and marketing, where against a target of 15 per cent the current actual performance is a return of just 9 per cent. The com-

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

pany is aware of the problem and is doing something about it. It still has some of the highest quality assets in the business, but it is by no means clear that the company is changing fast enough.

Psion looks organised

The mistake most people make about Psion is to focus on its current product portfolio and think that the company is simply a hardware manufacturer, albeit of a successful fast-growing product, the Series 3A palmtop organiser.

It is actually a highly skilled writer of software, better placed than anyone to capitalise on the rapid convergence of telecommunications and computing, thanks to its ability to compress powerful applications into pocket-size boxes. That is where the value of the company lies - not in what it does, but what it might do in five years time.

It is no surprise that mobile phone

giants such as Nokia and Ericsson are sniffing around the company. The marriage of their products and Psion's software is the future of consumer electronics and, having learnt from Apple's mistakes and expressed its willingness to license out its operating system to others, Psion has paved the way for potentially extremely lucrative joint ventures with the industry's giants.

In the meantime, profits from the organisers and their industrial spin-offs continue to flow, with pre-exceptional profits up 56 per cent to £8m (£5.1m) on a 35 per cent rise in sales to £3.7m in the six months to June. With a pre-tax return on sales of 15 per cent, gross margins of 41 per cent, a return on equity of 70 per cent and a £12m cash pile, the company is in fine fettle.

There are some worries. Progress in the US was a disappointment with profits up only about 13 per cent from a low base, compared with internal projections of nearer 50 per cent. And the collapse of the Amstrad talks has cast doubt over strategy. But these should not distract from the big picture.

Psion's share price has been a massive outperformer since the market cottoned on to the potential at the end of 1992 and it would take a determined optimist to see much short-term value in the shares at yesterday's close of 400p, up 9p. On forecast profits of £16m this year, the shares trade on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 27.

Historically, however, looking at Psion in the short term has been the market's, and our, mistake. This is a bet on the future and on Psion's ability to capitalise on it. Earnings ratios rarely make a jot of difference in those circumstances.

TI sales as good as expected

TI Group has become such a serial outperformer that even a 19 per cent increase in underlying profits in the first half did not budge the share price. That seems a curious reaction to a company that in 10 years has transformed itself from a Midlands metal basher, with interests spread from Raleigh bicycles to Russell Hobbs kettles, to a global engineering dominant in its main markets.

With margins up, cash flow strong and a healthy order book, TI is in an enviable position. The one fly in the ointment is a somewhat gloomy outlook in Europe, particularly in Germany and France. Perhaps this is why the shares were unchanged at 525p. But even this will be compensated for by a US market that looks resilient and growth opportunities in the Far East.

Pre-exceptional profits of £103.7m were struck on sales 4 per cent ahead at £895m in the six months to June, with all three divisions showing organic sales growth of 7 per cent. John Crane, the mechanical seals business, outperformed some patchy markets, particularly in Europe, and increased market share.

The Bundy tubes business benefited from better sales to US car and truck manufacturers, which offset a flat European car market, while the oneros look most encouraging in the Dowty Aerospace division which makes propellers and landing gear. With Boeing and Airbus set to almost double their orders in the next four years Dowty will get its share.

With £71m net cash, TI needs to make its balance sheet work harder. Bolt-on acquisitions are promised.

Profits of around £210m in the full year are expected, giving a forward rating of 18. A premium to the market but good value for a quality player.

Insurance advisers tax the shadow chancellor

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

Remember all the fuss shadow chancellor Gordon Brown made recently about accountancy firms offering tax avoidance advice in case Labour get in and increases tax rates?

Insurance broker Sedgwick Noble Lowndes is now offering similar advice. It may detonate a similar volcano on the opposition front benches.

Sedgwick has sent an investment newsletter to its clients entitled *Planning for the next election*. It warns that a new government may target income from trusts "for some anti-avoidance measures".

"The possibility of a Labour government is always good news for those in the offshore fund business, the reaction for many investors being to get their money offshore."

The letter further warns investors to take some common sense actions "now to mitigate any increased burden of taxation in 1997 and beyond".

It seems that however far to the right Tony Blair drags his Party, there are still people willing to play the tax card.

City spin-doctors Brunswick has sent me a letter pointing out the vital difference between Sumitomo Bank and Sumitomo Corporation.

"You will be aware of the recent news about the losses incurred by Sumitomo Corporation in their copper trading operation."

There have been a number of articles in the press recently where, at best, it could have been difficult for a reader to differentiate between the Bank and the Corporation.

The administrators trying to sort out the *Sunday Business* newspaper are now touting it for sale. An ad has been placed in the FT by administrators Royce Peeling Green but no circulation figures are available at the moment. When Tom Ruythoff launched the paper over three months ago, he said it needed to sell 150,000 copies to break even. It last announced sales figures a month ago of around 40,000, and since then, a deadly silence.

I'd offer to buy the company for 2.5p myself, but only if it comes without the liabilities.



Beyond Brown's reach: Sedgwick may need a haven now

poration. At worst, articles have said or implied that Sumitomo Bank was under-taking the copper trading which led to the losses."

Perish the thought. In fact, the Bank and the Corporation were legally separated just after the Second World War. The former grew to be the world's biggest bank by 1994, then fell down the league table as Japanese banks wrote off huge property losses. The Corporation is a commodities trader.

So there you are. The Bank is heavily involved in property and project finance, and has nothing to do with the Corporation. Apart, that is, from a 5 per cent holding.

Congratulations to PR backette Karen Roberts, née Fry, of Financial Dynamics, who has just returned from her

honeymoon with hubby Martin. Mrs Roberts spends much of her time with property clients, while Mr Roberts himself works for property surveyors Knight Frank.

One FD colleague quips: "Karen loved her job so much she married it."

Lloyd's rebel names were incensed that their ultra-top secret meeting with Lloyd's chairman David Rowland on Wednesday was rumoured by the press. The Paying Names Action Group, which is threatening to apply for a Judicial Review to overturn the proposed rescue offer, demanded to know from our financial editor yesterday exactly who had blabbed.

The informant was Barry O'Brien, the Freshfields solicitor who is advising Lloyd's on the rescue plan. He burst into a press conference half-an-hour late on Wednesday, apologising profusely. On being asked where he had been, Mr O'Brien happily explained - at the secret talks with the Action Group.

No change there, then. The Lime Street insurance market has always been as leaky as a sieve.

Canal Plus scraps TV venture with Germans

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Canal Plus has called off its pay-TV joint venture with Bertelsmann, the German media giant, following weeks of tension and disagreement.

The two insisted yesterday, however, that they would continue to pursue other common projects in the media sector, and that their decision should be seen more as a separation than a divorce.

The move follows a chess game of great complexity among the Continent's main pay-TV hopefuls, particularly in the potentially lucrative German market.

The seeds of the dispute between Canal Plus, operator of France's digital pay-TV network, and Bertelsmann date from the German company's announcement earlier this year that it would merge its TV in-

terests with those of CLT, the Luxembourg-based broadcaster that has established a competing pay-TV service in France.

The situation was further complicated by the swift moves of BSkyB, the UK cable and satellite broadcaster, which joined a grand alliance made up of Bertelsmann, Canal Plus and Havas early this year, only to dump the group in favour of an equity joint venture with Bertelsmann's chief German rival, the Bavarian mogul Leo Kirch.

Since then, Bertelsmann has dropped attempts to develop a competing digital TV platform in Germany, and instead will support a plan to add the Premiere pay-TV channels, in which it has a 37.5 per cent stake, into the Kirch DF-1 digital bouquet.

As part of the truce with Kirch, Bertelsmann is also prepared to sell half its Premiere stake to BSkyB, in a bid to ce-

ment the new relationship. If agreed, the deal will see Premiere split among four companies - Kirch, Bertelsmann, Canal Plus and BSkyB.

The digital TV market has expanded rapidly, both in the US and in continental Europe. Kirch and BSkyB launched their German service last weekend, with 17 channels, and plan to add more in the course of the coming year.

Separately, BSkyB has said it would introduce digital television in the UK late next year, and has confirmed it would welcome an equity investment by Kirch.

BSkyB is expected to use its experience with Kirch in the German market to fine-tune plans to launch digital satellite services in the UK. Its initial goal is to offer as many as 200 channels, many of them devoted to pay-per-view film and sport services.

Channel 5 offers cable firms more for retuning

Channel 5 Broadcasting has offered to pay cable operators at least £10 a household to retune video recorders in their franchises areas in advance of the launch of the fifth terrestrial channel next year, writes Matthew Horsman.

The offer could end the stalemate in negotiations between Channel 5 and several cable companies, and may allow a blanket retuning deal for as many as 1 million cable homes to be announced within weeks.

Channel 5, headed by chief executive Ian Ritchie, had been hoping to convince leading operators to handle the retuning exercise in their respective franchise areas, as part of plans to visit 9.6 million homes to prepare receiving equipment for the launch. Millions of VCRs and televisions have to be adjusted to ensure there is no interference when the fifth and final mainstream television



Ian Ritchie: Offer could end the stalemate in talks

channel is introduced 1 January.

The retuning project, involving 7,000 engineers and 380 staff at a special call centre, is already known to be severely over the initial budget of £55m, but farming out the work could take some of the pressure off Channel 5's own specially recruited staff.

The cable talks had foundered mainly on price, with Channel 5 offering as little as £2.50 a household. But sources close to the negotiations warned there were still disagreements over key issues, including Channel 5's demand that cable operators provide guarantees that they will complete a given number of retunings by a specified date.

"Channel 5 has promised the Independent Television Commission that it will complete the exercise in advance of the launch date," a senior source at a leading cable operator said. "Such undertakings haven't got anything to do with us, and we don't want to be involved in commitments to the ITC."

Under the terms of its licence, Channel 5, owned by Pearson Television, United News & Media and CLT, is required to retune 90 per cent of homes in the reception areas before starting transmissions.

Yorkshire Electric to buy back shares

Yorkshire Electricity, one of only five remaining independent regional electricity companies, plans to buy back 10 per cent of its shares and raise its dividend next year by a third to 52.66p per share.

The group plans to raise total dividends in the following year, 1997/98, by another 7 per cent, it added at its annual shareholder meeting. The statement sent the shares jumping 26p to 707p.

Chris Hampson, chairman, told shareholders that the next stage of the company's programme of delivering value to shareholders was possible because of the company's "continuing excellent performance".

He added: "The board intends to keep the issue of further returns of value to shareholders under review." This comes just days after some analysts forecast a fresh shareholder bonanza from utilities hoping to pre-empt a pos-

sible windfall profit tax levied by an incoming Labour government.

Yorkshire Electricity is also asking shareholders for approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.

Mr Hampson, who chairs one of only three of the original 12 electricity suppliers not to have received a takeover bid amid a wave of offers for the cash-rich companies, said customer prices were the lowest in the country.

Yorkshire Electricity said it was cutting domestic and small-business customers' prices by 6.8 per cent on average from yesterday.

"Our track record of delivering increased efficiency, offering the lowest prices for average general domestic customers and providing excellent returns to our shareholders, underlines our commitment to being among the most successful companies in the sector," Mr Hampson said.

COMPANY RESULTS				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Aditya (F)	145.0m (150.4m)	6.22m (8.26m)	11.17p (15.05p)	5.5p (8.5p)
Greenhalgh (F)	-	7.87m (1.22m)	3.89p (3.05p)	2.3p (2.25p)
Lumina (F)	353m (330m)	117m (81.0m)	3.9p (1.5p)	n/a
Mitro (F)	230m (153m)	50.4m (25.3m)	44p (35.1p)	10.66p (1)
Pulson (F)	53.1m (45.8m)	6.5m (5.1m)	5.55p (4.95p)	0.85p (0.50p)
Reith (F)	45.7m (29.7m)	9.1m (7.4m)	6.6p (5.3p)	3p (2.1p)
TI Group (F)	885m (859m)	125m (87.4m)	19.4p (12.5p)	4.75p (4.35p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF
ROYAL INSURANCE HOLDINGS plc
and
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 17th July 1996 sanctioning a Scheme of Arrangement and confirming a reduction of the capital of the above-named company, from £250,000,000 to £63,523,748 and the Minutes approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the said company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 19th July 1996. Dated the 1st day of August 1996.

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AIB looks for more acquisitions

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Allied Irish Banks is planning further acquisitions in the regional UK banking market and is continuing to study purchases in the UK, the group said yesterday.

Eamon McElroy, general manager of AIB Britain, said the bank had watched the process of high street consolidation closely but, having failed to acquire a building society, he felt "the opportunities are slipping in terms of price and attraction". AIB is nevertheless looking

for other UK operations, including life assurance and fund management, but "no one should be holding their breath", he added.

Neil Dean, chief financial officer, said the US was a particularly attractive market with compound growth of 80 per cent since 1983, when AIB purchased First Maryland Bancorp.

The Irish bank's US operations yesterday reported half-year profits 14 per cent higher at £157m (£95m), with group pre-tax profit for the latest half year up by the same percentage to a record £120.1m.

Mr Dean said: "We will keep our franchise in the belt from southern Pennsylvania to northern Virginia." Following its success in Maryland, AIB plans to set up strong local banks.

AIB, Ireland's highest capitalised stock market company, said it was optimistic that the second-half results would outstrip last year's.

"We are confident that our profit performance in the rest of 1996 will exceed that achieved in the second half of 1995. With a favourable economic background in the Irish, UK and US

economies, underlying business trends continue to be positive," James Culliton, the chairman, said.

In Ireland, buoyant lending volumes more than compensated for a fall in margins, and the US and capital markets divisions also achieved strong growth, AIB said.

But Mr Culliton warned that lending growth could slow in Ireland. "We expect continuing strong loan demand although at a lower level than the first half," AIB said. The integration of fund manager John Govett was going well.

Custody deal makes RBS world-beater

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Royal Bank of Scotland yesterday became the fifth-biggest custodian of shares and bonds in the world after a deal with Mercury Asset Management to set up a new £200m bank that will specialise in handling the assets of fund managers.

Mercury will inject £30m of convertible loan stock into the new operation, called RBS Trust Bank, which could give it

a 15 per cent stake, if eventually exercised. The equity is 100 per cent owned by Royal.

At the same time Royal is to pay Mercury up to £20m to acquire custody businesses to merge into the operation. The additional £80m of assets to be acquired by Royal includes many of the funds managed by Mercury, Britain's largest fund management company.

These assets will be added to the Royal group's existing £170bn under custody, taking

the total it looks after for pension funds, insurance companies and other clients to £250bn.

Royal said this made it number two in the UK custody business after Midland Bank, which has about £270bn. The only bigger custodians are State Street, Bank of New York and Bankers Trust of the US.

The combined custody operation will employ about 1,200 people in Edinburgh, London, Jersey and Luxembourg.

Although Royal Bank is paying Mercury "between £5m and £20m" for the custody operation, the business it is acquiring is now owned by the Custody and Investor Services Division of SBC Warburg.

Mercury was controlled by Warburg until it was taken over by Swiss Bank Corporation, and the fact that the payment is to Mercury rather than SBC arises from agreements made at the time. The acquisition is the biggest so far in the UK custody business.

IN BRIEF

• Golden handshakes worth £22.8m were divided among 66 company directors in the last financial year, Labour Research said yesterday. The biggest went to Dr Ernst Mario, the former chief executive of Glaxo, who left in 1993 but was paid until June, giving him a total of £1.44m. Eleven payoffs were above £500,000 and two were for more than £1m. Six directors shared £1.07m in golden hellos.

• J Sainsbury is to pay Belgian retailer GIB £65m for the 25 per cent of its Homebase DIY chain it does not already own. A £12.5m shareholder loan from GIB to Homebase will be also repaid. GIB said that following a strategic review, it wanted to sell its interest in Homebase to release funds for investment in its core business in continental Europe. Homebase is currently integrating the Texas Homecare chain acquired from Ladbroke last year.

• All 76 of the Colorvision television and video shops were closed for stock taking yesterday following the company's collapse into receivership on Wednesday. Receivers Arthur Andersen said some, but not all of the outlets, would be open today. The receivers have received several expressions of interest.

• Don Cruickshank, director general of telecommunications regulator Ofcom, is to issue a consultative document on Monday on the construction of a National Numbering Scheme. The scheme is expected to make the charges for premium rate calls less confusing. At the moment premium rate services are scattered over 15 different codes beginning 03, 06, 08 and 09.

• Flying Colours, the new charter airline, has ordered four Rolls-Royce powered Boeing 757s for delivery early next year in a £200m deal. The airline, which will be based at Manchester airport, has options on four more 757s for delivery over the next three to four years. Flying Colours will fly holiday makers booked through its associated tour operators Club 19-30 and Sunset Holidays. It will also carry passengers booked through the group's ticket-only booking operation. The airline will start recruiting 300 staff in September.

• P&O said that in the year to date it has already achieved agreed property sales of over £180m, of which £130m have either had contracts exchanged or been completed. Nearly half of the sales were in the UK and virtually all were at or above book value. P&O chairman Lord Sterling said the company is a third of the way towards meeting the three year target of £500m of property sales.

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market report/shares

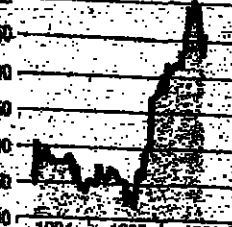
DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3734.3+31.2
FT-SE 250
4243.0+12.4
FT-SE 350
1869.6+13.5
SEAQ VOLUME
569.1m shares
30,037 bargains
Gilts Index
93.07 +0.30

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

TRAFFICMASTER



Rate-sensitive banks prove the pick of the blue chips

TAKING STOCK

For the second day running investors in the City seized on US data suggesting interest rates would be left on hold to push equity prices higher.

On Wednesday a weaker-than-expected Chicago purchasing managers' report encouraged optimism about the Federal Reserve's next meeting in three weeks.

Yesterday a US national purchasing managers index showing the economy grew at a "very slow rate" in July boosted bond prices and sent Wall Street over 50 points higher in early trade. The Footsie took its cue and built on early gains to close 31.2 points higher at 3,734.3, just off the session's high.

Banks, seen as the most rate-sensitive sector, were the biggest beneficiaries. Among blue chips, they accounted for four of the top half-dozen best performers.

National Westminster Bank

led the way, adding 20p to 645p on further consideration of its interim results. Dealers spoke of several short positions still being squeezed after the bank spent \$450m buying back its own shares at 426p on Tuesday.

Also in demand were HSBC Holdings, 37.5p better at 1,091p ahead of interim results on Monday. Royal Bank of Scotland, up 12p to 481p on news it is buying SBC Warburg's custody and investor services division; and Abbey National, 12.5p higher at 584p.

Elsewhere in the sector Bank of Scotland gained 2.5p to 230.5p after BZW completed the sale of the bank's stake in Standard Life.

Zeneca had another healthy session, rising 27p to 1418p after announcing it had completed the sale of its textile colours business to Germany's BASF. The pharmaceuticals team at BZW was also said to



MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER

have made positive noises. Thorn EMI continued to attract bid speculation with MCA, part of Canadian entertainment giant Seagram, tipped to go for EMI's music division. The shares rose 25p to 1,778p for a two-day gain of 71p.

Sainsbury was 6.5p better at 382p after announcing plans to buy the remaining 25 per cent of DIY operation Homebase from GIB Group for \$65m.

Yorkshire Electricity, up 26p at 707p, joined NatWest and Thames Water on the list of recent converts to the share buy-back craze. It is seeking shareholder approval to buy

back 10 per cent of its equity. Similar hopes also sustained United Utilities, up 9p at 573p. Shell dipped 11p to 911.5p, as analysts looked to trim forecasts on the back of disappointing second-quarter results in the chemicals division.

But Lasso recovered to close 2p firmer at 181p after falling in early trade on news of results at the bottom end of expectations and a warning that second-half results would be hit by higher exploration and finance charges.

Hanson was in the doghouse again, dropping 4.5p to 153.75p after confirming it was to close a UK chemical

plant and delay expansion plans.

More activity on the buses where FirstBus, the market leader, issued an upbeat trading statement at its annual meeting. The shares motored ahead 23p to 160p. National Express rose in sympathy by 20p to 462p but Stagecoach relinquished 10.5p to 531p after adverse comment about yesterday's \$476m acquisition of rolling stock leasing company Porterbrook.

Exhibitions group Blenheim advanced 9p to 434p after confirming it was in bid talks. Reed has replaced United News & Media as its most likely suitor.

Trafficmaster got the green light for a ground-breaking deal to supply 100,000 of its jam-busting driver information units to Vauxhall. These will be fitted as standard in Vauxhall cars from next month. Trafficmaster's Oracle system

works by using radio beacons at every motorway junction and approximately two-mile intervals along the motorway network. Real-time traffic flow information is transmitted directly to the vehicle in which the equipment is installed via the car's own audio system using voice-based technology. Further orders are expected later this year. The shares accelerated 34p to 353p.

Renewed US buying gave added spice to Pizza Express. Shares in the restaurant group rose 19p to 418p, just shy of their all-time high, after Janus Capital increased its stake to 17.2 per cent after picking up 977,000 shares.

Shoprite, now little more than a shell company, nudged a ha'penny higher at 17.5p. It was forced into a fire sale of its supermarket chain to Kwik Save two years ago, but the once high-flying shares have recovered from a low of 6p.

Bluebird Toys, as high as 386p last year, slipped 9p to 219p amid concerns about current trading. Falling profits, fading bid hopes and a series of directors' share sales have affected sentiment, though shareholders were told at their annual meeting in May to expect the second half to be "much improved" on the same period last year. Bluebird is replacing its Mighty Max range of toys with Mickey Mouse and Batman sets.

Shares in AIM-listed biotech tiddler Stanford Rook fell 25p to 323p. There are renewed worries in the City that Phase III trials of SKL172, which may help victims of tuberculosis and is Stanford's only product, may disappoint. Results are due to be released later this year. The shares were as high as 600p in March.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. To access the latest price data by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: * Ex rights; * Ex dividend; * Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market; * Suspended; * Partly Paid; * NI Paid Shares; * A.M. Stock

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FTSE 100 - Real-time	00	FTSE 250 - Real-time	01	FTSE 350 - Real-time	02
UK Stock Market Report	03	UK Company News	04	UK Company News	05
Foreign Exchange	06	Tokyo Market	07	High Street Banks	08
Private Finance	09	Water Shares	10	Electricity Shares	11
Bank of Scotland	12	Bank of Scotland	13	Bank of Scotland	14

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 233 333. For assistance, call our helpline (071) 873 4376 (9.30am - 5.30pm).

Call cost 20p per minute (cheap rates), and 49p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
HSBC	200000	HSBC	200000	HSBC	200000
HSBC	200000	HSBC	200000	HSBC	200000
HSBC	200000	HSBC	200000	HSBC	200000
HSBC	200000	HSBC	200000	HSBC	200000

FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 3703.5 up 31	11.00 3703.5 down 34	14.00 3703.5 up 73
09.00 3703.5 up 33	12.00 3703.5 up 31	15.00 3703.5 up 317
10.00 3703.5 up 27	13.00 3703.5 up 05	Close 3734.3 up 312

Alcoholic Beverages	Banking	Chemicals	Construction	Diversified Industries	Engineering Vehicles	Food Manufacturers	Health Care	Household Goods	Insurance	Investment Companies	Life Assurance	Media	Pharmaceuticals	Printing & Paper	Property	Support Services	Telecommunications	Textiles & Apparel	Transport	Utilities	Water	Other
Alcoholic Beverages	Banking	Chemicals	Construction	Diversified Industries	Engineering Vehicles	Food Manufacturers	Health Care	Household Goods	Insurance	Investment Companies	Life Assurance	Media	Pharmaceuticals	Printing & Paper	Property	Support Services	Telecommunications	Textiles & Apparel	Transport	Utilities	Water	Other

THE INDEPENDENT

Win Paint Your Wagon Tickets

Win the chance to see Paint Your Wagon at the Open Air Theatre in Regents Park on August 17th, courtesy of Entenmann's, the taste of American baking at it's best. The thigh-slapping US gold mining adventure has been vividly brought to life by the cast. We've got 50 pairs of tickets to give away. Plus there are 50 luxury Optima Hampers to be won. A further 50 readers will receive an

Entenmann's voucher redeemable against a delicious cake. To enter, simply dial the number below, answer the two questions on line and leave your details. So call:

0891 111 511

Call cost 30p/min cheap rate, 49p/min at other times. Winner picked at random after time close 10th August 96. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editors decision is final.

Alcoholic Beverages	Banking	Chemicals	Construction	Diversified Industries	Engineering Vehicles	Food Manufacturers	Health Care	Household Goods	Insurance	Investment Companies	Life Assurance	Media	Pharmaceuticals	Printing & Paper	Property	Support Services	Telecommunications	Textiles & Apparel	Transport	Utilities	Water	Other
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sport

Leicestershire are indebted to Wells

Cricket

MICHAEL AUSTIN
reports from Leicester
Leicestershire 364-7 v
Northamptonshire

The August time for bold Championship statements is nigh. Leicestershire, joint leaders with Surrey, made theirs. Put in by next-to-bottom Northamptonshire yesterday, their opener Vince Wells passed 150 for the fourth time this summer in all matches on his way to a career-best 202 not out, with 30 fours and a six.

Northamptonshire have a rag, tag and bobtail look without Rob Bailey, Richard Montgomerie, Russell Warren and

David Sales. Doubtless, acting captain Alan Fordham opted to field, allowing a pause for thought. It could be extra-long as Leicestershire bat on today.

Wells, 31 next Wednesday, came to his adopted county from Kent as a bats and pieces player with a medium paced bowling brief four years ago. He attracted Northamptonshire's own attention when he was leaving Kent after the 1991 season but with Tony Penberthy around they could scarcely duplicate another all-round role.

He has since climbed the batting order. A heavy double-hundred against Yorkshire was followed by 197 off the Essex attack in his next Championship innings and, when reaching 182 yesterday, he completed 1,000

runs in a season for the first time.

Yesterday his command was unerring, with the marginal exception of a mis-hock on 131, off Paul Taylor, which fell short of Mal Loye, the onrushing fielder at deep square leg. With-out James Whitaker, who has a torn calf muscle, Wells assumed additional batting responsibilities. Lacking diligence with bat, he reached a century from 157 for 3 and shared a partnership of 152 with Phil Simmons.

Northamptonshire faltered in the field as Simmons made 75, with 11 fours from 140 balls. They endured a torrid afternoon session in which Leicestershire added 139 runs for the loss of Aftab Habib, caught off a Curtly Ambrose delivery of mere, extra bounce.

Ambrose bowled 17 economical overs before Jeremy Snape, the off-spinner introduced in the 81st over, dismissed Simmons with his first delivery, and Greg McMillan three balls later. Simmons was bowled off a glove and McMillan caught at slip. Suddenly, Northamptonshire were animated but Leicestershire kept doing what they have all season - heads down and emphasising their drive to win the title after a 21-year gap.

John Emburey, the county coach and No 1 off-spinner, bowled four and a half hours earlier than Snape, pitched the ball on the proverbial spongy and no one took liberties. Wells still hit 17 boundaries in his hundred and Emburey was first to slap him on the back when taking the single from his bowling to complete a double century.

Others had fallen by the wayside on a pitch likely to sympathise with spinners as the match progressed. Wells apart, only Simmons made a half-century. For Wells, this was a third double hundred, together with a near miss, in his golden six-week spell.

Somerset captain loses his place

Round-up

SIMON O'HAGAN

Somerset yesterday showed how little room there was for sentiment in cricket when they lost to Glamorgan at Worcester. The former Yorkshire opener hit 14 fours and a six in his unbeaten 91.

Mark Patterson overshad-owed Chris Lewis's comeback by taking six South Africa wickets on his first-team debut for Surrey. Lewis captained an under-strength Surrey against the unbeaten tourists as he attempts to prove his fitness after missing the Test defeat by Pakistan with a groin injury. Patterson, 22, coming to the end of a two-week trial with Surrey, wrapped up the South African innings with four for 18 in 4.3 overs after tea. The tourists were all out for 379.

scored 178 as Somerset ended the first day on 412 for six.

Ashley Metcalfe moved to within sight of his maiden century for Nottinghamshire as they ended the day at 268 for five against Glamorgan at Worcester. The former Yorkshire opener hit 14 fours and a six in his unbeaten 91.

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Ed Giddins in action yesterday after being charged by the Test and County Cricket Board with using a prohibited substance and bringing the game into disrepute. Photograph: Peter Jay

Hick back to his best with flowing century

DAVID LLEWELLYN

reports from Canterbury
Worcestershire 311-6 v Kent

The Thursday of Canterbury Week is traditionally Ladies Day, but this year it belonged to Graeme Hick as he fashioned the 89th first-class hundred of his career. It would not be unreasonable, given Hick's obvious class, to expect a quarter of that impressive list of centuries to have been made at Test level, but in fact Hick has scored just four for England.

But yesterday he had clearly put his perceived failures in the first Test against Pakistan at Lord's well behind him and, having survived a sharp caught and bowled chance to Martin McCague when he had reached

16, proceeded untroubled and

punchingly to three figures. There is an economy of effort with Hick, but in full flow he looks a million euros - his effort was witnessed by Chancellor Kenneth Clarke - as he cut, pulled and drove the toiling Kent attack to all parts of the ground. He was a tantalising two runs short of his 150 when he took off from the non-striker's end in response to Reuben Spiring's call for a single.

Hick was a slow starter and by the time he spotted the danger Trevor Ward's accurate and fast throw had reached wicket-keeper Simon Willis's gloves. Whether his 148 will be enough to persuade the England selectors to give him yet another chance is debatable, but they may be taking notice of Spiring as a possible A Tourist after he

shared in a fourth-wicket stand of 160 with Hick.

He showed admirable temperament and generally good shot selection as he made his way steadily past 50 for the seventh time this summer, on two of those occasions he has gone on to make Championship hundreds and certainly looks to have the talent. He did survive a comfortable stumping chance on 41, when he rashly put four yards between himself and safety to have a swipe. Min Patel's slow left arm bowling, but Willis passed up the opportunity and it was left to Mark Ealham, the pick of the Kent bowlers, to have him playing on 30 runs later. Thereafter Kent failed to winkle out the limpet-like Stuart Lampitt and Steven Rhodes, who stuck it out until the close to ensure a third batting point.

Hartley leads fightback

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Eastbourne
Yorkshire 345; Sussex 33-2

Sussex supporters lead frustrated lives. They must have felt that this was going to be one of the better days when, after putting Yorkshire in to bat yesterday, Sussex had reduced them to 150 for 7 - but they then had to suffer while Richard Blakey and Peter Hartley put on 151 in 24 overs.

After impressive spells by Jason Lewry, arguably a better left-arm seamer than either of the two who played for England at Lord's, and Vasek Drakes (5 for 99 in 27 overs) the quality of the bowling fell away.

The eighth-wicket pair received a constant stream of half-volleys and long-hops and, while Blakey was happy to make one end safe as he compiled his highest score for two years, Hartley, a most engaging

batsman, took full toll. He drove and pulled without much footwork in an almost stately manner, making 89 from 76 balls with two sixes and 16 fours.

The seam bowlers all suffered, and none more so than Ed Giddins, who heard during the day that he will face the full disciplinary committee of the Test and County Cricket Board on 19 August. The pitch had apparently been uncovered when a storm broke on Monday and it was a good morning for the seamen, who found movement in the air and off the pitch.

Lewry started Yorkshire's early decline in the fifth over when he hit Michael Vaughan's off-stump with one which swung back into him. It is this ability to swing the ball into the right-hand bat at a distinctly lively pace which marks Lewry out.

In the eighth over, David Byas was yanked by Drakes and in the 13th Lewry bowled Martyn Moxon through his

back-stroke with another which swung in late. At 55, Michael Bevan trod on his stumps after edging a short one from Giddins into his body.

Anthony McGrath and Craig White then added 90 in 29 overs on either side of lunch, before Drakes removed them both and Darren Gough for five runs in 11 balls.

Philip DeFreitas, the former England all-rounder, gave Gloucestershire a torrid time with a five-wicket haul at Derby yesterday. The visitors were recovering well from the loss of Nick Thorner to the first ball of the match when the innings went into swift decline. They slumped from 114 for 3 to 217 all out before tea, with only their opener Matt Windos offering any real resistance with 76 in 52 overs. Courtney Walsh hit back with two quick wickets but Derbyshire's former captain, Kim Barnett, struck a rapid 65 (making 50 off 54 balls) as Derbyshire closed on 166 for 4.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance County Championship

First day of four: 11.0 today

Derbyshire v Gloucestershire

Derbyshire (40/1), with six first-innings wickets standing, are 52 runs behind Gloucestershire (2).

Gloucestershire - First innings

N J Turner b M Mollison 0

M B Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 76

M C Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 27

N A Lynch b M Mollison 1

M W Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 25

A Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 15

M Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 15

R P Jones c Mollison d DeFreitas 11

J L Jones c Mollison d DeFreitas 11

*C A Walsh not out 47

*C A Walsh not out 47

Total (60 overs) 52

Derbyshire - First innings

N J Turner b M Mollison 0

M B Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 76

M C Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 27

N A Lynch b M Mollison 1

M W Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 25

A Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 15

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J L Jones c Mollison d DeFreitas 11

*C A Walsh not out 47

*C A Walsh not out 47

Total (60 overs) 52

Kent v Worcestershire

CANTERBURY: Worcestershire (40/1) have scored 311 for 6 against Kent (2).

Worcestershire - First innings

T S Curran c Fulton b McQuinn 6

W P C Weston c Fulton b McQuinn 19

G Mollison c Fulton b McQuinn 149

*T M Mollison c Fulton b McQuinn 149

R P Jones c Fulton b McQuinn 11

J L Jones c Fulton b McQuinn 11

*C A Walsh not out 47

*C A Walsh not out 47

Total (60 overs) 311

Kent - First innings

N J Turner b M Mollison 0

M B Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 76

M C Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 27

N A Lynch b M Mollison 1

M W Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 25

A Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 15

M Mollison c Mollison d DeFreitas 15

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J L Jones c Mollison d DeFreitas 11

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*C A Walsh not out 47

Total (60 overs) 52

Play INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL



You've seen the rest now play the best. Independent Fantasy Football brings you the first real innovation in fantasy football, allowing you to pick the playing formation of your team. You can opt for a defensive strategy with five defenders, three midfielders and two strikers in a 5-3-2 formation, or go on the attack with three strikers in a 4-3-3 line-up. Complete your team with a goalkeeper and a Premiership manager and you'll be ready for kick-off. To put your title-winning team together you have a budget of £40 million to spend. It is up to you how you spend the money, with no restrictions on the number of players you can choose from any one Premiership team. Look carefully and you will find some real bargains, with Alan Shearer on sale for the fantasy price of £11.1 million!

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HOW TO ENTER

Using your football knowledge decide your team formation from the following four options:

FORMATION A. 4-4-2

4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

FORMATION B. 4-3-3

4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers

FORMATION C. 5-3-2

5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

FORMATION D. 3-5-2

3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

You are free to enter as many teams as you wish, allowing you to try out more than one tactical formation, but each team must be made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call. Once you have chosen your formation, select your team of



10 players to fit your chosen option, plus one goalkeeper and one manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and the team's total value must not exceed £40 million. Remember to give your team a name.

Use our Team Selection form above right, to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration hotline to register. Where possible, please try to use a tone telephone, although a traditional pulse telephone can be used if necessary. Make sure you follow the instructions on the phoneline carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be awarded four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers and defenders whose team have kept a clean sheet during a match. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the

winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the standard four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a pass that, in the opinion of our team of experts, leads directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a red card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for scoring purposes.

The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. Look out for transfer opportunities which will be announced during the season.

Please read the Rules and Conditions carefully before making your call.

Team Selection Form

Name	Code	Value
Goalkeeper		
Defender 1		
Defender 2		
Defender 3		
Defender 4		
Defender 5		
Midfielder 1		
Midfielder 2		
Midfielder 3		
Midfielder 4		
Midfielder 5		
Striker 1		
Striker 2		
Striker 3		
Manager		

PIN No. Total £

Team Name:

POINT SCORES:

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

Register today, call:

UK 0891-252-244(tone)

UK 0891-252-234(pulse)

Republic of Ireland: 1550 131 553

UK calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times. Republic of Ireland calls cost 50p per minute including VAT at all times. Maximum call length 6.5 minutes.

THE INDEPENDENT TEAM MARKET

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)
GOALKEEPERS				MIDFIELDERS				STRIKERS				MANAGERS			
300	Seaman	ARS	5.9	457	Watson	EVE	2.7	687	Woan	NOT	3.4	856	Claridge	LEI	3.0
303	Bosnich	AV	4.0	458	Unsworth	EVE	3.0	688	Bart-Williams	NOT	3.6	857	Heskey	LEI	2.8
304	Flowers	BLA	5.2	459	Hottiger	EVE	2.2	689	Stone	NOT	5.0	858	Robins	LEI	2.0
305	Kharine	CHE	3.7	460	Hinchcliffe	EVE	1.9	690	Gemmell	NOT	3.0	859	Cantona	MU	8.1
306	Hitchcock	CHE	1.5	463	Jobson	LEE	2.7	693	Parker	LEI	2.5	860	Scholes	MU	5.0
307	Ogrizovic	COV	2.2	464	Kelly	LEE	3.6	694	Taylor	LEI	1.6	863	Cole	MU	6.2
308	Fulan	COV	1.5	465	Wetherall	LEE	3.5	695	Izzett	LEI	2.1	864	Fjortoft	MID	3.1
309	Southall	EVE	3.0	466	Dorigo	LEE	3.2	696	Waddle	SW	2.7	865	Ravanelli	MID	8.0
330	Martyn	LEE	3.3	467	Pemberton	LEE	1.2	697	Blinker	SW	2.2	866	Bamby	MID	6.7
333	James	LIV	4.7	468	Walsh	LEI	2.2	698	Jones	SW	2.0	867	Beardsley	NEW	4.4
335	Poole	LEI	1.5	469	Grayson	LEI	2.2	699	Hyde	SW	1.8	868	Asprilla	NEW	7.4
336	Hoult	DER	1.6	470	Whitlow	LEI	1.2	700	Magilton	SOT	2.4	869	Ferdinand	NEW	8.6
337	Schmeichel	MU	5.5	473	Watts	LEI	1.6	703	Venison	SOT	2.7	870	Saunders	NOT	5.2
338	Welsh	MID	3.0	474	Babb	LIV	3.7	704	Heaney	SOT	2.2	873	Roy	NOT	4.8
339	Strick	NEW	3.7	475	Jones	LIV	2.8	705	M Gray	SUN	3.0	874	Campbell	NOT	3.1
340	Hislop	NEW	2.7	476	Wright	LIV	3.0	706	Rae	SUN	2.7	875	Booth	SW	4.4
343	Crossley	NOT	2.7	477	Ruddock	LIV	4.4	707	Agnew	SUN	1.0	876	Hirst	SW	5.5
344	Wright	NOT	1.3	478	Scalers	LIV	2.2	708	Anderton	TOT	6.7	877	Bright	SW	2.5
345	Beasant	SOT	1.8	479	Harkness	LIV	2.2	709	Fox	TOT	5.6	878	Le Tissier	SOT	7.0
346	Pressman	SW	2.7	480	Neville (G)	MU	3.7	730	Howells	TOT	3.2	879	Shippierley	SOT	3.7
347	Coton	SUN	1.8	483	Neville (P)	MU	3.7	733	Sinton	TOT	3.0	880	Watson	SUN	2.2
348	Walker	TOT	3.4	484	Irwin	MU	4.1	734	Williamson	WH	3.6	883	Kelly	SUN	2.1
349	Miklosko	WH	3.0	485	Pallister	MU	4.9	735	Dumitrescu	WH	3.7	884	Stewart	SUN	2.3
350	Sullivan	WIM	1.8	486	May	MU	3.0	736	Hughes	WH	2.7	885	Sherringham	TOT	7.4
DEFENDERS				487	Vickers	MID	2.2	737	Moncur	WH	2.7	886	Armstrong	TOT	5.9
400	Dixon	ARS	3.1	488	Pearson	MID	2.2	738	Bishop	WH	3.0	887	Rosenthal	TOT	2.1
403	Winterburn	ARS	3.1	489	Whyte	MID	2.2	739	Jones	WIM	2.8	888	Futre	WH	4.0
404	Bould	ARS	3.0	490	Cox	MID	2.5	740	Earle	WIM	3.1	889	Raducioiu	WH	5.1
405	Adams	ARS	5.3	493	Albert	NEW	4.1	743	Arndley	WIM	2.0	890	Dowie	WH	3.3
406	Keown	ARS	3.7	494	Howey	NEW	3.7	744	Fear	WIM	2.0	893	Holdsworth	WIM	4.5
407	Staunton	AV	3.0	495	Peacock	NEW	3.0	STRIKERS				894	Goodman	WIM	3.2
408	Southgate	AV	5.2	496	Barton	NEW	2.2	800	Bergkamp	ARS	7.0	895	Ekoku	WIM	2.7
409	McGrath	AV	3.0	497	Beresford	NOT	3.0	803	Wright	ARS	7.2	MANAGERS			
430	Ebiogu	AV	3.4	498	Chester	NOT	2.4	804	Harrison	ARS	3.7	900	Keegan	NEW	8.0
433	Wright	AV	3.4	499	Leckie	NOT	2.9	806	Yorke	AV	6.7	903	Ferguson	MU	9.0
434	Tiler	AV	3.4	500	Lytle	NOT	1.3	807	Milosevic	AV	4.4	904	Evans	LIV	7.0
435	Berg	BLA	4.0	503	Pearce	NOT	3.4	808	Johnston	AV	3.5	905	Rioch	ARS	6.0
436	Le Saux	BLA	3.7	504	Monkous	SOT	2.5	809	Joachim	AV	2.4	906	Royle	EVE	5.5
437	Coleman	BLA	4.4	506	Dodd	SOT	2.2	830	Shearer	NEW	11.1	907	Harford	BLA	5.5
438	Hendry	BLA	1.9	507	Bennal	SOT	2.2	834	Sutton	BLA	3.7	908	Francis	TOT	5.0
439	Kenna	BLA	3.0	508	Charlton	SOT	2.2	835	Vialli	CHE	8.1	909	Wilkinson	LEE	3.5
440	Duberry	CHE	3.0	509	Nolan	SW	1.9	836	Hughes	CHE	4.4	930	Redknapp	WH	3.3
443	Potrescu	CHE	1.9	530	Atherton	SW	1.9	837	Spencer	CHE	2.5	933	Gullit	CHE	4.5
444	Phelan	CHE	4.4	533	Walker	SW	2.5	838	Dublin	COV	4.7	934	Clark	NOT	3.3
445	Lebeouf	CHE	2.2	534	Stefanovic	SW	1.6	839	Whelan	COV	5.2	935	Robson	MID	5.0
446	Sinclair	CHE	1.3	535	Melville	SUN	2.2	840	Ndlovu	COV	4.3	936	Reid	SUN	2.0
447	Minto	CHE	2.7	536	Kubicki	SUN	1.2	843	Gabbadini	DER	3.5	937	Souness	SOT	2.3
448	Dalish	COV	2.2	537	Ball	SUN	2.2	844	Ward	DER	2.5	938	O'Neill	LEI	1.8
449	Shaw	COV	2.2	538	Campbell	TOT	3.7	845	Sturridge	DER	3.0	939	Smith	DER	2.0
450	Burrows	DER	3.3	539	Caldwell	TOT	2.9	846	Ferguson	EVE	6.7	940	Kinnear	WIM	2.2
453	Stimac	DER	1.8	540	Austin	TOT	2.2	847	Amokachi	EVE	3.7	943	Atkinson	COV	4.0
454	Powell	DER	2.2	543	Edinburgh	TOT	1.6	848	Rideout	EVE	3.0	944	Little	AV	5.0
455	Wassall	DER	2.2	544	Mabbutt	TOT	2.7	849	Yehosh	LEE	5.9	945	Pleat	SW	3.5
456	Short	EVE	3.0	545	Dicks	WH	3.5	850	Rush	LEE	5.2				
				546	Bilic	WH	3.7	853	Deane	LEE	3.0				
				547	Reiper	WH	2.7	854	Collymore	LIV	8.1				
				548	Hall	WH	2.7	855	Fowler	LIV	9.5				
				549	Bowen	WH	1.2								
				550	Pearce	WIM	2.2								

RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. Only entries made via The Independent Fantasy Football official registration phone line will be valid.
2. For every Fantasy Football team selection you may only use the players published in the official list printed in The Independent Fantasy Football magazine.
3. Entries must comprise 11 players and one manager. The players must consist of a goalkeeper plus one of the four team formations listed below. The total cost of the team, including manager, must not exceed £40 million.
4. EA Carling Premiership fixtures have been assigned a fictional transfer value by

our experts which represent current ability. There will be no correspondence relating to players or their financial value.
5. Independent Fantasy Football results are calculated on all matches in the FA Cup Premiership. Points are awarded according to the scoring system described in "How to Score".
6. In the event that a goalkeeper or a defender is substituted, the player substituted and the substitute are both deemed to have played in the match in question. Therefore, if there is a clean sheet both players shall be credited.

7. The Independent overall prize of a 1998 World Cup trip will go to the team whose total score exceeds that of any other team over the whole season. If there is a tie, a simple draw will take place.
8. One pair of tickets to see England play at Wembley will be awarded to the manager whose team's points total first of any club manager during the month. The months are: Month 1: 17/08/96 to 22/09/96 Month 2: 23/09/96 to 27/10/96 Month 3: 28/10/96 to 23/11/96 Month 4: 24/11/96 to 22/12/96 Month 5: 23/12/96 to 18/01/97 Month 6: 19/01/97 to 24/02/97 Month 7: 24/02/97 to 21/03/97

9. Only EA Carling Premiership matches apply. If a player is transferred out of the Premiership or is unable to play for any other reason, that player will not score with that team from that point on until he returns playing in the Premiership.
10. All points scored during all Premiership matches count towards the Fantasy team's total score for the season and the final top prize. No cup or international matches count.
11. Team selections, once made, cannot be

altered until such time as a transfer list may be published in connection with Fantasy Football. There is no limit to the number of entries any person or household may make by individual entry. One PIN claim number will be issued for each valid claim registration. You must keep your PIN claim number safe.
12. Closing date for entries is 31st September 1996.
13. The competition is open to residents of the UK and Republic of Ireland only. Entries must under 18 must be able to provide written permission from parent or guardian if

requested and ask permission from the person who pays the telephone charges before phoning their entry.
14. Incomplete, inaccurate or illegible entries will not be accepted. Newspaper Publishing plc are not responsible for entries lost or delayed in transfer. Proof of postage receipt is not accepted as proof of entry.
15. Employees of Newspaper Publishing plc, European Newsprint Ltd, TBA, agents and families are not allowed to enter. Normal Newspaper Publishing plc rules apply.
16. UK calls will be charged at 39p per

minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times. Republic of Ireland calls will cost 50p per minute including VAT at all times. Entries made by pay phone will cost approximately double that of a normal landline call. Make sure you have a coin or a credit card to use so that your call is not cut off before dialling so that your call is for the minimum duration.
17. Newspaper Publishing plc reserves the right to stop the game at any time and change the conditions. The Editor's decision is final in all matters relating to the game. No correspondence, either in writing or by

telephone, will be entered into.
18. You may receive future offers or information from Newspaper Publishing plc or approved companies. If you do not wish to receive these please write to: Independent Fantasy Football, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.
19. Should you have any difficulty in registering your team, please call our helpline on 0171 285 2223.
20. Newspaper Publishing plc, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL.

sport

Devers a class act on and off the track

Ken Jones salutes an American champion who has learned to take disappointment in her stride

In her blocks at the Olympic Stadium on Wednesday night, Gail Devers was again looking at history.

As in Barcelona four years ago when she fell at the last while leading, Devers was within sight of becoming the first woman since Fanny Blankers-Koen to win the 100 metres and 100m hurdles at one Olympics.

In accord with that fact, an audience made up mostly of Americans gave Devers a warm and encouraging reception. She smiled, just briefly, and went to her mark, lost in concentration.

You could not help wondering what was going on in Devers' mind. The tumble in Spain, overcoming the disease that crippled her for more than a year and almost led to the amputation of a foot?

Five places to the left of Devers crouched the favourite, Ludmila Enquist, once of Russia, who was given permission only three weeks ago to race in Sweden's colours. A roar went up at the gun but it was quickly clear that Devers

would not be the winner. The tall, 32-year-old Enquist lasted longest, edging out Brigita Bukovec of Slovenia in 12.58 seconds. Devers, running stride for stride with the French contender, Patricia Girard-Leno, finished out of the medals, beaten for the bronze in a photo-finish.

Nobody has ever been able to lay down a rule determining how much disappointment sports performers must take before it becomes an excuse for childish behaviour. In any case, Devers proved herself a class act, offering nothing but amiable acceptance of failure. "No excuses," she said. "It wasn't meant to be." Having long since got life into perspective, she added, "I can't even say that I'm disappointed."

"I did better than Barcelona. I crawled [literally] into fifth there. I was fourth here, and I finished on my feet. Believe me I wanted to get over 10 hurdles. I did. I didn't hit one."

Probably, the last time Devers shed real tears was when the disabling effect of Graves disease meant that she even had to drag herself to the bathroom.



Short head: Sweden's Ludmila Enquist (centre), just pips Slovenia's Brigita Bukovec (right) for the 100 metres hurdles gold medal

Photograph: Michael Probst/AP

So, nothing to embarrass anyone. Unlike Linford Christie, who churlishly brushed aside interrogators after failing to qualify for the 200m semi-final, Devers stood around for 10 minutes, flashing her smile and famously long fingernails.

In truth, Devers was never really in contention. Her coach, Bobby Kersee, said: "Because Gail has been short of competition this season, she was floating over hurdles rather than driving over them."

Enquist had the technique off pat, the threat of her presence confirmed by a driving finish. As Ludmila Narozhilenko, she was world champion in 1991 before testing positive for steroids. The scandal would have a unique twist. By then in the midst of an acrimonious divorce, she claimed that her ex-husband had spiked her vitamins.

As excuses go it seemed pretty far-fetched but last December a four-year ban imposed in 1993 was lifted by the

Russian courts and Enquist was reinstated by the International Amateur Athletics Federation under the exceptional circumstance rule.

On Wednesday night, Enquist established herself fully as an outstanding athlete. "I went through a lot to get here," she said, "and I knew I could take the gold medal."

The break up of Enquist's first marriage involved the man who is now her husband, manager and coach. "To begin with

I was Ludmila's agent but the relationship developed into something deeper," Johan Enquist said.

Officially granted Swedish citizenship only two months ago, Ludmila repaid the favour by winning her new country's first gold medal in 20 years. With her fingernails painted blue and her long blond hair drawn tight by a blue and yellow band, Enquist looked the picture of Nordic womanhood, but Sweden is divided over her right to

appear in the national colours. There is something manipulative in all this as there appears to be now in most things Olympic. However, Sweden or Russia, nothing can devalue the fact that Enquist ran the race of her life.

It was all that mattered to Enquist and her husband. "It was only on the fifth of July that Russia granted Ludmila the right to represent Sweden, so it's been an anxious time for us," Johan Enquist said. They kissed

for the cameramen and went off happily.

What Devers left us with was a sense of maturity not always evident in Olympic competition. After beating Gwen Torrence in a photo-finish to take the 100m gold she heard hurtful suggestions of a hometown decision. But more than most athletes today, Devers is able to look on victory and defeat as merely events in the wider scheme of things. She fits Kipling's poem perfectly.

Britain's sprint relay team go in search of gold

Britain's 400 metres relay runners, buoyed up by Roger Black's silver medal in the individual event, will set out today to revive their country's flagging fortunes on the track. They will be seeking to do at least as well as Black did in finishing behind Michael Johnson, and hoping there may be a faint glimpse of gold.

If Britain are to emulate their 400m relay victory in the 1991 World Championships, however, they will need the Americans to make mistakes, as they did on that occasion in Tokyo. Black, who played his part in that win, said yesterday: "This is the best British 4x400 relay squad ever assembled. There is no point in going out to the track unless you are going out to win. We know Michael

Johnson will be there but everyone remembers '91 and all our team will be going for it."

Linford Christie's last Olympic fling also starts today as Britain's sprint relay team seek to qualify for tomorrow's final. Christie, who failed to reach the 200 metres semi-finals, was attempting to adopt a philosophical viewpoint as he looked forward to today's events.

"I am still Linford Christie," he said. "I will always be known as an Olympic champion. It will be the same in the relay - I will go out there and do what I have done all along."

The 36-year-old Briton, traumatised by the disqualification from the 100m final on Saturday night for two false starts, was not expected to do great things in the

200m, but he must have hoped to progress further. He has at least mended his fences with the man who accused him of affecting his concentration before the 100m final when he disputed the disqualification. At Bolderon.

"Just so everybody knows," Bolderon said, "Christie and I have kissed and made up, like real men should."

While Britain can only hope for an athletics gold now, Sweden and Norway will go away from these Games with rare titles. Ludmila Enquist's victory for her adopted country in the 100m hurdles was Sweden's first track gold since Anders Garderud won the steeplechase in 1976, while Vebjørn Rodal's achievement in winning the 800m brought Norway their first

record in the track programme. Hezekiel Sepeng, who became the first black South African to win an Olympic medal by taking silver in 1:42.74, is another contender, as is the Kenyan-born Wilson Kipketer, who leads this year's world rankings with 1:42.51 but has not yet gained full Danish nationality.

The IOC require him to reside in Denmark for another year. Sepeng, 22, only took up serious running four years ago after realising he would not make it as a professional footballer; he ran initially without shoes because he could not afford them. It had been his aim to win an Olympic medal since 1992, when South Africa were allowed back into the Games after a 30-year ban for their apartheid policies.

Both their medalists in Barcelona were white.

Sepeng, who beat his own South African record, said: "The record was for me but the medal is for my country." He then pointed to and repeated the words scrawled with a marker pen on his running vest: "God help me, give me power."

Deon Hemmings, who succeeded the injured Sally Gunnell as 400m hurdles champion, was also busy with her pen in the run-up to the Games. The Jamaican, who trains in Austin, Texas, came across a magazine article forecasting a clean sweep of medals for the American trio. She scored them out, and wrote her own name at the top. And lo, it came to pass, as she finished in an Olympic record of

52.82sec ahead of the American pair of Kim Batten and Tonja Buford-Bailey, who had won gold and silver respectively at last year's World Championships.

It was the second record Gunnell lost on the night - Angie Thorpe beat her eight-year-old British 100m hurdles mark of 12.82, recording 12.80 but missing a place in the final.

Ashia Hansen, who has previously faltered on the big occasion, did not do so in the first women's triple jump final in Olympic history. But her distance of 14.49m only earned her fifth place behind Inessa Kravets of the Ukraine, who won with 15.33, the second longest jump ever behind her own world record of 15.50. ■ The world pole vault cham-

pion Sergei Bubka of Ukraine has fled Atlanta after pulling out of the Olympics with an injury, an associate in his home town said yesterday. "Sergei was so upset that he simply ran away from Atlanta. No one knows where he is now."

Mikhail Tyutyunyk, commercial director of Bubka's sports club in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, said by telephone. "He seems to have decided to take time out to recover from this shock."

Bubka withdrew on Wednesday because of an Achilles tendon injury, complaining of severe pain. The holder of 35 world records warmed up for the final with the bar set at 5.70 metres, but picked up his belongings and left the arena.

SCARLET FACES IN ATLANTA

Yesterday's Olympic bloomers

Julie Pound did not do her husband any favours when she allegedly kneed a policeman in the groin when the officer tried to stop the couple jaywalking in Atlanta's streets.

Pick Pound, a former Canadian Olympic swimmer and a top man on the International Olympic Committee, had some explaining to do after 56-year-old Julie was charged with obstruction, abusive language and battery.

The battling spouse had to be handcuffed, according to the arresting officer's report, which added that Pound had the "odour of alcohol on her breath" and continued to act irrationally.

The arrest was seen as an

embarrassment to the IOC, which already has strained relations with Atlanta Games organisers after a series of logistical glitches.

However, the IOC spokeswoman, Michele Verdier, said that the organisation was not getting involved in the case. "It's a private matter, it's a police matter, we don't have to interfere," she said.

"We are all human beings and I consider when I walk in the street and I misbehave, not during IOC duties, it is not an official matter. It's private life," she said.

"We can't control what happens in the street and that's the reason why we consider this to be a private matter."

Novotna on the attack

Tennis

The Olympic singles exposed a rift in the women's doubles partnership of Jana Novotna and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Novotna lost to Sanchez Vicario 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 in Wednesday's singles semi-finals, then claimed to be the more popular player. Novotna also accused her friend and partner on the tour of poor sportsmanship.

"She's been questioning every call there is, even when there's no reason for it," Novotna said. "That's really upsetting because you wouldn't expect that from a player of her calibre. You would expect a little bit more fair play. She doesn't do it only to me. She does it with everybody."

Sanchez Vicario denied questioning calls. "I was just doing

my job and concentrating and playing well," the Spaniard said. "Maybe she was disappointed because every time she has a chance, she lost against me."

In singles, Sanchez Vicario has won seven of 13 matches against Novotna. They have been playing doubles together on the WTA Tour since 1994, but Novotna said they are friends only "in a professional way."

"I know when I step on the court that I'm a more popular player than she is," the Czech said. "Whatever she's doing or whenever she's like that, she has to live with it."

Sanchez Vicario said: "It's hard to have close friends on the tour because there is a lot of rivalry. But we have a good relationship off the court. We have a good partnership when we play doubles but singles is different."

Later, Novotna and Sanchez Vicario returned for a doubles semi-final - this time against each other. Novotna and Helena Sukova beat Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez 6-2, 7-6.

Vicario's opponent in today's singles final will be Lindsay Davenport, who was in tears after she had beaten her best friend and American teammate, Mary Joe Fernandez, in a contest neither wanted.

"I'm sorry," Davenport told Fernandez at the net after winning the semi-final 6-2, 7-6. Later in the dressing-rooms she broke down in tears.



TODAY'S
NUMBER

36

The years since a woman diver won two gold medals at the same Olympic Games. China's Fu Mingxia, a world champion at 12, added the three-metre springboard crown to her 10m platform title to equal the record of Ingrid Kravetz of East Germany, at the 1980 Games in Rome. "The key to my success is my technical skills," Fu said. "My performance was quite consistent and I'm prepared psychologically. I was pretty relaxed."

'Unworthy' Campese

Rugby Union

David Campese, who is considering offers from three English clubs, was yesterday declared to be unworthy of his place in the Australian Test side.

Paul McLean, the former Australian captain, said Campese should be left stranded on the career. "I believe he's not going to play for us next year, so what's the point?" McLean said. "It's a terrific opportunity to blood someone else."

The New South Wales lock John Wallwork will make his Test debut for Australia against South Africa tomorrow. The 25-year-old is the only new cap in the side. The experienced No 8 Tim Gavin will play in his preferred position while Michael Brial moves to the flank.

The prop Dan Crowley, who has been suffering from a bro-

ken toe, passed a fitness test and will pack down with hooker Michael Foley and tight-head Andrew Heath.

Australia (v) Nations Test v South Africa, Bloemfontein, tomorrow: M Burke, S Tame, D Herbert, P Woodward, D Campese, S Brown, G Morgan, A Heath, M Foley, D Crowley, J East, G Carr, J Wallwork, D Watson, T Gavin, M Brial. Replacements: J Roff, R Tombs, S Payne, D Munn, M Caputo, R Henry.

The Great Britain sprinter Jason John is having trials with the Second Division side Moseley. John, who was left out of the Olympic squad, has decided to switch sports and Moseley are prepared to offer him a professional contract if he impresses in their early-season games.

Brigand have signed the Canadian international scrum-half John Graf to replace their Welsh international star Robert Howley, who has joined Cardiff.

Barbarians team v Scotland, Sporting Digest, page 22

London Broncos have finally sorted out the complex business of signing Martin Offiah and will unveil their new acquisition this morning.

A press conference has been called at a London hotel, signalling that the Broncos, Bedford Rugby Union Club and, equally important, News Limited, with whom Offiah has a "loyalty" contract, have reached an agreement on the division of the player's time during the overlap of the two rugby seasons.

A meeting between the parties yesterday broke up with smiles all round. "The matter is now in the hands of the lawyers but with a very positive stance," Alan McColm, Offiah's agent, said.

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

That final tuning will allow London to go ahead with their official announcement today, with the 29-year-old winger, sold by Wigan to lighten a crippling wage bill, to make his debut against Warrington at The Valley on Sunday.

Bedford, the Courage Second Division club with whom Offiah will relaunch his union career, will make their own announcement next week.

Justin Bryant, the former London player sent off by the referee Colin Morris within four minutes of coming on at Leeds to make his debut for Paris, was cleared by the League's disciplinary committee yesterday over the alleged use of the forearm.

"The referee simply got it wrong," said the Paris coach, John Kear. "The committee has had the guts to put it right

but we played for 50 minutes with 12 men. It shows what a good system it is for referees to put players on report when there is some doubt."

Bryant is now able to play against Halifax on Sunday, but Ian Russell is returning to Australia with a cracked sternum.

London's Australian captain, Terry Matterson, will make his international debut next week for Scotland. Matterson, who qualifies through a Scottish grandfather, is one of four Australians (Matterson's teammates Darren Shaw and Duncan McRae, and the Carlisle hooker Danny Russell are the others) who will face Ireland at Park Road on Tuesday. The side will be captained by the Leeds full-back Alan Tait, who is exploring the possibilities of a return to rugby union, in which he won caps for Scotland.

Brazil's golden dream shattered by Nigeria

Nigeria produced an amazing men's semi-final comeback to beat Brazil 4-3 in sudden-death extra time on Wednesday in Athens, Georgia, and leave their South American opponents in floods of tears.

Nwankwo Kanu, who equalised in the last minute of normal time, danced through the Brazilian defence to score the "golden goal" winner four minutes into extra time.

Brazil, who have never won an Olympic gold despite winning the World Cup four times, led 3-1 with only 13 minutes left. Flavio Conceicao put them ahead with a deflected free-kick in the second minute but his teammate Roberto Carlos missed a clearance into his own net to gift the Nigerians an equaliser in the 20th minute.

Brazil regained the lead eight minutes later when the Africans' goalkeeper, Joseph Dosu, spilled a Ronaldinho shot and Bebeiro knocked in the rebound. Nine minutes later Juninho capped a fine move by

using his chest to set up Conceicao for his second goal. Nigeria's Austin Okocha missed a 63rd-minute penalty, but Victor Ikpeba pulled one back with a fine shot in the 77th minute, setting the stage for Kanu's heroics. The Africans now face Argentina in tomorrow's final.

The defeat raises questions about the future of Brazil's veteran coach, Mario Zagallo, who is also in charge of the full national side. "In the first half we did everything we needed to win the game," he said, "but Nigeria never gave in and they won on merit." Zagallo has been criticised for asking too much of Europe-based players such as Juninho and Roberto Carlos, who both spent the last European close-season playing in the Copa America.

TODAY'S TIMETABLE

ALL TIMES EST ARE BST

ARCHERY (1400): (m/f) team eliminations (1715): (m/f) team finals

ATHLETICS (1200): (m) 500m walk (1415): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1430): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1445): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1455): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1505): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1515): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1525): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1535): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1545): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1555): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1605): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1615): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1625): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1635): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1645): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1655): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1665): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1675): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1685): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1695): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1705): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1715): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1725): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1735): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1745): (m) 4x100m relay first round (1755): (m) 4x100m relay first round 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Tonga's historic moment

"When you're Cuban and you come to the Olympics, you're ready for King Kong," he joked later. Wolfram staggered the

Cuban in the first round, inflicting a standing count with 1min 47sec to go. A second followed with 15 seconds remaining in the first round as the Tongan felled the Cuban with a left.

Belfast's Damaen Kelly could not produce another big finish and missed a flyweight medal and Kelly lost 13-6 to the world No. 1, Bulat Dzumadilov, in the

Denmark take gold medal

Medals table

	G	S	B	T
United States	27	30	15	7
Russia	21	16	9	4
China	15	17	11	4
France	13	6	14	3
Germany	11	12	20	4
Italy	11	6	9	2
Australia	7	9	18	3
South Korea	6	8	4	1
Poland	6	5	3	1

Hungary	4	3
Greece	4	3

Greece	4	3	0
Switzerland	4	1	0
Cuba	3	5	8
Japan	3	4	3
Brazil	3	2	5
New Zealand	3	2	1
Denmark	3	1	1
Ireland	3	0	1
Turkey	3	0	1
Canada	2	8	7
Netherlands	2	4	8
Kazakhstan	2	3	1
Russia	2	2	2

Spain	2	1
South Africa	2	1
Ethiopia	2	2

Ethiopia	2	0	0	2
Belarus	1	5	8	14
Great Britain	1	4	6	11
Czech Republic	1	2	2	5
Sweden	1	2	1	4
Finland	1	2	0	3
Jamaica	1	2	0	3
Indonesia	1	1	2	4
Norway	1	1	2	4
Armenia	1	1	0	2
Slovakia	1	0	1	2
Venezuela	1	0	1	2

Essex1	0	0
Hong Kong1	0	0
Guria1	0	0

Syria	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	0	4	4	8
Kenya	0	2	1	3
Slovenia	0	2	0	2
Austria	0	1	1	2
Iran	0	1	1	2
Malaysia	0	1	1	2
Argentina	0	1	0	1
Croatia	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Taiwan	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	1	0	1

Brazil	0	0	1
Mexico	0	0	1
Moldova	0	0	1

Moldova.....	0	0	1	1
Mongolia.....	0	0	1	1
Morocco.....	0	0	1	1
Mozambique.....	0	0	1	1
Nigeria.....	0	0	1	1
Trinidad.....	0	0	1	1
Uganda.....	0	0	1	1

SPRINGSBOARD FINAL

1 Fu Mingqin (China)	547.88								
2 Irina Lashina (Rus)	532.19								
3 Annee Pelletier (Can)	509.64								
4 M Moses (US)	507.95; 5 O Zhupina (Ukr)	507.27; 6 Y Motobuch (Japan)	506.04; 7 V Ilyina (Rus)	493.56; 8 A Lindberg (Swe)	489.81; 9 J Kelm (US)	486.63; 10 I Vozniukova (Kaz)	475.92; 11 C Bockner (Ger)	455.70; 12 I Pissareva (Ukr)	448.02

 **Equestrianism**

Equestrianism

etc stages: 1 A Van Grunsven (Neth, Borfne)
153.44 per cent: 21 Wernh (Ger, Durgel) 152.06;
3 M Gibson (US, Perron) 149.48; 4 S Rothner
berger (Neth, Weyden) 148.18; 5 M Theodor
escu (Ger, Gruma) 147.71; 6 K Baisenthal (Ger,
Goldstein) 145.53; 7 M Otto-Cron (Fr, Lucky
Land) 144.25; 8 N Uphoff-Becker (Ger, Rem-
brandt) 143.06; 9 N Schraudt (Ger, Durgel)
142.22; 10 G Seidel (US, Graf Georg) 141.17;
11 J Rambla (Sp, Evens) 139.95; 12 L Neth-
thorn (Swi, Wisk) On Top 139.61; 13 L Petersen
(Denmark, Ute Koshogsdag) 136.94. Non-qual-
ifying: 14 T Barletti-De Vries (Neth, Barbra)

Stuckelberger (Swit. Aquaman) 134.57
Holsters (Bel. Fable) 134.46; 19 A Solmek
Soyuz) 133.39; 20 || Holstmann (Gru.

Handball

Men: Preliminary round: Group A: Russia 30 Switzerland 23; Sweden 27 Croatia 18; United States 29 U.S. 24

Hooker

Hockey
MEN: Semi-finals: Spain 2 Australia 1; Netherlands 3 Germany 1. Classification: India 3 South Korea 3 (South Korea won 5-3 on penalties).

Football
MEN: Semi-finals: Nigeria 4 (Roberto Carlos og 20, Ipebe 77, Kuru 80, 84) Brazil 3 (Conceicao 2, 37, Bebeto 28) (after sudden-death ex-

Saline

LASER Final standings

1. Robert Schickel (Ger)	26.00
2. Ben Almelid (Can)	37.00
3. Peer Moberg (Nor)	46.00

4. M Blackburn (Aus) 48.00; 5. S Warkala (Ger) 54.00; 6. J Hannyson (Swe) 55.00; 7. V Serpe (Por) 74.00; 8. T Johanson (Fin) 78.00.

EUROPE Final standings

1. Kristine Rung (Den)	24.00
2. Hanneli Mathiesen (Neth)	30.00

3 S. Poczayzinska (Ger) 75.00; 7 L. Kozłowski 81.00; 8 S. Amann (Aust) 81.00; 9 M. J. J. J. J.

51.00; 8 S Amato (Arg) 81.00; 9 M McBurney (Swi) 82.00; 10 A Bowman (Nz) 82.00; 11 C Bridge (Aus) 86.00; 12 A Bognatec (It) 93.00; 13 T Moberg-Parker (Can) 94.00; 14 P Lewin (Barri) 94.00; 15 N Meylan (Swi) 100.00; 16 M Petriccione (Ita) 107.00; 17 H Manilla (Sp) 111.00; 18 V Delahia (Sloven) 114.00; 19 C Smedberg (Fin) 128.00; 20 W Gilarowicz (Pol) 138.00; 21 J Bailemans (Bel) 148.00; 22 M Aylstone (Gr) 150.00; 23 A Saito (Japan) 151.00; 24 K Kruuv (Est) 197.00; 25 J Pristas (Port) 208.00; 26 A Podobed (Slo) 218.00; 27 T Tan (Sing) 224.00; 28 R Lepore (Ita) 244.00.

Week 6: Match 1: Russia vs Canada; Match 2: Denmark vs Britain; Match 3: Russia vs Canada; Match 4: Russia vs Canada; Match 5: Britain vs Germany; Match 6: Russia vs Canada.

Table tennis

COMMENT: Singles
Demi Lovato (10th)

Deng Yingping (China).....Gold
Jing Chen (Taiwan).....Silver
Qiao Hong (China).....Bronze

1-17 21-14 21-17 20-22 17-21 21-5, Bronze
Medals Qiao Hong (China) bt Liu Wei (China)
1-17 15-21 21-19 21-21.

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Lancashire	0891 525 377
Leics.	0891 525 378
Middlesex	0891 525 379
Norfolk	0891 525 380
Notts.	0891 525 381
Somerset	0891 525 382
Staffs.	0891 525 383
Sussex	0891 525 384
Warwicks.	0891 525 385
Worcs.	0891 525 386
Yorkshire	0891 525 387

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SPORT

Liverpool finally seal Berger deal

Football
CLIVE WHITE

Liverpool's summer long pursuit of the Czech Republic's brilliant playmaker, Patrik Berger, ended yesterday afternoon at Anfield, the stadium where he first caught Roy Evans's eye playing for his country during Euro 96.

The 23-year-old Borussia Dortmund man signed a £3.25m deal, pending a successful medical and work permit application. Liverpool are confident that the deal will go through before the European Cup-Winners' Cup deadline. With injuries to left-sided players Steve Harkness, Rob Jones and Mark Kennedy, they are banking on the arrival of Berger.

Bruce Rioch's hopes of making the Blackburn captain, Tim Sherwood, his first major summer signing for Arsenal has hit a snag. Rovers have run into injury problems in midfield and may be forced to reject Rioch's renewed £3m offer. Garry Flitcroft has an ankle injury and Billy McKinlay is troubled by a knee problem, leaving just Lars Bohinen as cover for Sherwood.

Coventry's manager Ron Atkinson expects to make the Standard League right-back Régis Genaux his next big money capture in a £1.7m deal. Fellow Midlands Wolves have been given permission to talk to Everton's Neville Southall, but Peter Shilton has told Birmingham he is not interested in their job of goalkeeping coach: the former

England keeper, who is 46, intends to carry on playing.

Tottenham are prepared to risk losing out on signing Tranmere's out-of-contract defender Tony Thomas rather than pay what they believe is an inflated price for him. The First Division club are believed to want nearly £1m for Thomas, who has made nearly 300 appearances for Rovers.

"If necessary we could go to a transfer tribunal - with the condition of being able to pull out if we don't agree with the verdict," said Gerry Francis, the Spurs manager. His other full-backs, Dean Austin, Justin Edinburgh, David Kerslake and Clive Wilson, are all injured.

Gary Pallister, the Manchester United central defender, will miss the start of the season after sustaining a hamstring injury in the 3-0 defeat against Internazionale in Milan on Wednesday. The English champions, led by Eric Cantona, rarely threatened their old boy Paul Ince's side.

Much was made in the Italian press of Christophe Djorkaeff's performance in comparison with that of his countryman, Cantona, omitted from France's Euro 96 squad. The unanimous verdict went to Djorkaeff, with one headline proclaiming: "More whistles than applause for the phantom of Cantona".

Newcastle United - minus their world record signing Alan Shearer - stormed to a 5-0 victory over the Singapore All Stars in the National Stadium.

Shearer watched from the sidelines as the man he has deposited in the No 9 shirt, Les Ferdinand, opened the scoring, with two further goals apiece from Paul Kilson and David Ginola.

More than 500 journalists from all over the world are expected to attend Shearer's official welcome on Tyneside next Tuesday, when a special stage at the north end of the ground will be erected.

West Ham are to report Torquay's new signing, Jon Giltens, to the Football Association after their £1.5m recruit, Florin Raducioiu, was left with blood streaming down his face from a clash in Wednesday night's "friendly" at Plainmoor. "It was a terrible incident," said Harry Redknapp, the Hammers manager.

Under orders to cut wages and to raise money in the transfer market following relegation from the first division, Luton's manager Lennie Lawrence has sold Norwegian striker Vidar Riseth to Linz of Austria. Luton will collect £90,000, which represents a £10,000 loss on the player.

Lawrence is hoping to collect £450,000 from Sheffield Wednesday for midfielder Scott Oakes, who is set to rejoin his former manager David Pleat at Sheffield Wednesday. Further payments could bring the total fee to £700,000. The French striker Jean-Pierre Papin has joined Bordeaux on a two-year contract from the German side Bayern Munich.

DEVERS: A CLASS ACT

Ken Jones reports on how one of America's best athletes copes with disappointment. Page 24

In next Wednesday's 12 page summer of sport

Complete 1996-97 fixtures for the FA Carling Premiership, Nationwide Football League and Bell's Scottish Premier Division



Britain's Amarjit Singh (left) gets to grips with his Iranian opponent Ebrahim Mehraban Roudbaneh yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

Singh in gut-wrenchingly splendid isolation

If it is isolated at the top, it is scarcely very crowded a few rungs down either. Not if you are a British wrestler. In a national team that includes 12 horse grooms, four mountain bikers and any number of physiotherapists, Amarjit Singh stood alone yesterday.

He was the British wrestling team at the Georgia World Congress Centre. All 19 stone of him. But even with this mass of muscle that makes you wonder whether he ought to have a special licence to walk the pavements, a paltry squad of himself and a trainer was hardly an imposing one compared to the dozens of fighters and aides in American uniforms.

It rather summed up what the super-heavyweight has had to go through to get to Atlanta. Other wrestlers can train regularly with similar-sized men all year round. Singh, 25, from Wolverhampton, finds most of his toughest opponents in the gym, and they are the weights he pits his body against. Perhaps he

should take up equine grooming; at least he would have someone to talk to.

It is a bleak scenario, hardly likely to develop a gold medalist as Granit Taropin, who has coached the Russian and Indian wrestlers and is now in charge of Britain's, acknowledged: "He's our only international class wrestler," he said. "Six months ago he was a low standard, but he practised in the Ukraine for six weeks in the build-up to the Games and improved a lot. Other wrestlers have been working for four years."

"If I had the thousand best coaches in the world, it would mean nothing without money, organisation and good compe-



WRESTLING
By Guy Hollister

Amarijit needs eight good competitions a year. At the moment he's fighting once or twice. It's not enough.

Taropin lives in Glasgow and sees Singh once a month if he is lucky, yet if all this made you feel a little sorry for the Briton, you had to say he looked the part yesterday. A heavy, drooping moustache gave him a menacing air that his tree-trunk arms did not dispel. Given a good draw, you felt, and he might have a chance. A look at the

record of his first opponent, however, showed that fate had not been benign. Visually, Ebrahim Mehraban Roudbaneh probably came in second place to the Briton, but his CV includes two Asian championships. In Iran he is an idol, a national figure; Singh is barely a household name in his own street.

As soon as the fight started, the paper disparity was confirmed. The super-heavyweights do not indulge in many moves, and their repertoire is confined to the gut-wrench and the ankle cross. Singh, whose cousin, Ravinder, fought for Britain at the 1988 Games, spent most of his time straining to keep upright, never mind laying an at-

tacking paw on the Iranian. One thing that wrestling has which football, regrettably, does not is a penalty for insufficient attacking, and faced by the massive strength of Mehraban, Singh was soon penalised for passivity. Indeed, by the end he was one caution away from being disqualified.

Which would merely have pre-empted the inevitable as Singh lost 6-2 and faced a succession of bouts against other losers to find his rank in the competition. "He's in the top six in the world," he muttered shyly afterwards. "I did OK."

His coach thought so, too. "I expected him to lose because the Iranian is very strong," he said. "You must realise that in Iran wrestling is the number one sport, it is a tradition out there. They have many, many fighters to choose from."

While Taropin was talking, Singh was left to contemplate defeat in the warm-up room. He was isolated again, this time with his thoughts.

MacMahon escapes suspension

The Irish athlete Marie MacMahon, who took decongestant tablets containing a banned performance-enhancing substance two days before running in the Olympics, escaped a ban yesterday despite failing a drugs test.

The International Olympic Committee spokeswoman Michele Verdier revealed that senior IOC officials "unanimously" supported a recommendation by the medical commission to issue a strong reprimand to the athlete and the Irish team and not to enforce a ban.

The 21-year-old runner admitted taking two Robitussin decongestant pills to clear a "stuffy nose" without telling doctors. The Irish chief team

doctor, Joe Cumiskey, had protested to the medical commission that the athlete had "made a terrible mistake" and had used the drug to boost her performance.

Ms Verdier said that because of competition between the Irish Olympic officials and athletics bosses, their athletes were "not getting the right instructions" about which drugs were outlawed.

An Irish Olympic spokesman, David Guiney, said: "We are naturally absolutely delighted with the outcome of this very unfortunate incident. It was a complete accident and Marie is devastated, but fortunately the authorities have acted realisti-



DRUGS AT THE OLYMPICS

cally and properly and we will be very mindful of what they have said."

Verdier explained that Robitussin contains phenylpropanolamine, which is, oddly, both on the IOC list of banned and legal substances. She said the Irish team had not made it clear to the athletes which category the drug she had taken came into, therefore they decided not to punish the athlete with a ban but to opt for the

strong reprimand. MacMahon finished 14th in her heat of the women's 3,000 metres on Friday.

Verdier also announced that the Russian sprinter Marina Trandenkova has been disqualified from the Games after failing a drug test. Trandenkova, who came fifth in the women's 100m final on Saturday, is the fourth Russian to test positive for drugs, all for using bromantan, a stimulant-cum-masking agent.

The Russians have appealed against the disqualifications, arguing that bromantan is not specifically cited on the IOC's list of banned substances. But Verdier said: "It is the role of

the IOC to detect banned substances. This substance was declared illegal on 3 June."

A leading IOC official claimed that the drug had been used for many years but scientists could not detect it until recently.

Prince Alexandre de Merode, chairman of the IOC's medical commission, said traces were detected in as many as 20 tests in the past two years, all involving athletes from the former Soviet Union.

"It's made by the Russian army for army troops," de Merode said. "I am told it is available on the black market in Russia, including on the streets in Moscow."

Giddins to answer drug charges

Cricket

Ed Giddins, the Sussex bowler, was yesterday named as the cricketer at the centre of the drugs allegations after being charged with using a prohibited substance and bringing the game into disrepute by the Test and County Cricket Board.

Cricket's governing body had previously refused to name the Sussex player who failed a drugs test on 2 June this year until they made further investigations.

But yesterday the TCCB revealed the identity of the 25-year-old seamer and ordered him to appear in front of the discipline committee to answer three charges.

Giddins has met the doping control panel, headed by the Nottinghamshire chairman Alan Wheelhouse, on several occasions since drug traces were found in two samples last month.

The doping control panel, whose powers are restricted to a £1,000 fine and four days suspension, referred the matter on

to the discipline committee who have the authority to impose unlimited punishment.

A TCCB statement confirmed: "Following investigations by the doping control panel, charges have been brought against Mr E S H Giddins of Sussex County Cricket Club."

"These charges... will be laid before the TCCB discipline committee on Monday, 19 August."

Giddins, who toured Pakistan with England A in 1995-1996 and is riding high in the first-

class averages this season, could face a lengthy ban if found guilty at the hearing.

He is charged with using a prohibitive substance, that the substance was found in a urine test given by him as a result of a doping control test carried out on 2 June, 1996, and with bringing the game into disrepute.

The only previous player to have been punished by the TCCB for drugs-related offences was Ian Botham, who admitted taking cannabis in 1986 and was banned until July that year.



Giddins: Charged by TCCB after failing drug test

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

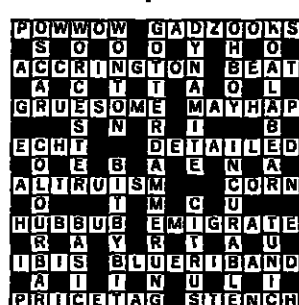
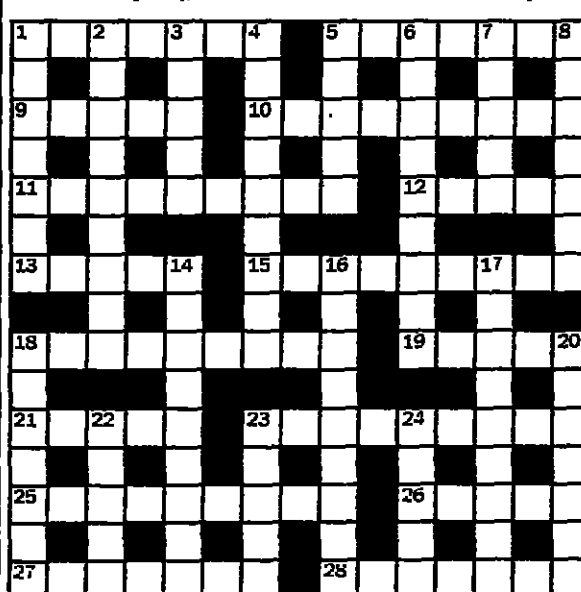
Clueless?

The Franklin Crossword Puzzle Solver has all the answers.

No 3055, Friday 2 August

By Mass

Thursday's solution



- ACROSS
- 1 Prude is shocked, is lost for words (5,2)
 - 5 Historic name inscribed in a tree, it's said (7)
 - 9 Twisted useless drill's packed in (5)
 - 10 A gadget you'll have to add to (9)
 - 11 Reportedly serene, exclusive nun (9)
 - 12 Wound up time indicator (5)
 - 13 Attack - rebutting Fwof's Mats, initially (5)
 - 15 King about to invade one place is Solomon? (9)
 - 18 They bungle Turners I'd faked (9)
 - 19 An older's objective, making for short grass? (5)

- 21 Money raised is put in bank, shortly (5)
- 23 Southern party embraced by hollow rebel (9)
- 25 Country area of Europe including half the Alps (9)
- 26 Eminence sheltering Lake Icar (5)
- 27 Sharpen male section of choric ode (7)
- 28 Office in which one dictates? (7)

- 5 It's enough to try, losing Spades (5)
- 6 Patient attention (9)
- 7 Tom's partner is a card (5)
- 8 Former timber edging mansion's earliest apex (7)
- 14 Muse with a port that's improved poor cheese (9)
- 16 I campaign no end, amorous others in Opposition (9)
- 17 Where's the water? Here, mostly! (2,3,4)
- 18 Colonialist, we hear, is after home advances (7)
- 20 Gamble? Luck has point in the venture (7)
- 22 Puzzle for each, absorbing jumbo (5)
- 23 Research some model versifier (5)
- 24 Take it number escaped from blaze? (5)

THE FRANKLIN SCRAMBLE

Make the longest word you can from COLLUMS. Yesterday's Scramble: ABCORD

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©Published by Newpaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 906609. Printed in Great Britain. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

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